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October 1991

Wilderness Study Report

Volume II

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WILDERNESS REPORT

Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area

Oregon

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

April 1981

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INTRODUCTION

The Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area is a 600 acre tract of land in Deschutes County, Oregon. It is entirely surrounded by a BLM wilderness inventory unit, Number OR-5-5, Horse Ridge, which contains 4,855 acres.

The Research Natural Area (RNA) was evaluated for wilderness characteristics in 1979. The entire RNA was re-evaluated during the intensive wilderness inventory of the larger unit which surrounds it. That inventory was completed in November 1980. It has been determined that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics, either alone or as a part of Inventory Unit 5-5.

Ten public comments were received in 1979 on the initial finding concerning the RNA alone. All supported the determination that the RNA lacks wilderness characteristics. They included comments from the State Departments of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and Parks and Recreation, and from the Association of Oregon Counties. Two comments were received in 1980 in response to the proposed decision to eliminate Unit 5-5 from further wilderness review. One supported and one opposed the proposed decision. Neither comment was from an elected official.

WILDERNESS INSTANT STUDY AREA RECOMMENDATION

The Western Juniper Research Natural Area and the surrounding wilderness inventory Unit, Number OR-5-5, do not possess wilderness characteristics. BLM recommends to the Secretary of the Interior that Congress find the entire area to be unsuitable for wilderness.

Neither the RNA alone nor Inventory Unit 5-5 satisfy any of the size requirements for wilderness areas. The RNA and most of the Inventory Unit appear to be have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, traffic sounds can be regularly heard in the area.

The topography includes Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit, which are steep-sloped basalt hills. Within the RNA alone, the topography is relatively flat, rising in elevation from 1,240 to 1,430m (4,100 to 4,700 feet). The vegetation of the entire area consists of dense stands of western juniper with sage and other shrubs and grasses. The topography and vegetation provide some screening, but the opportunities for solitude within this area are not outstanding.

None of the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding because there are no features or points of interest to attract vistors, there is only limited diversity in the terrain and vegetation, and the size and shape of the inventory unit are confining. The RNA alone is very small and completely surrounded by a fence.

This recommendation will not cause any significant economic or social impacts.

The short-term and long-term effects of this recommendation would be to remove the entire area from the constraints of the interim management policy guidelines imposed by Section 603 (c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The previously designated 600 acres would be maintained in their existing condition under continuing management as a research natural area. The 4,255 contiguous acres of roadless public land would be managed for multiple use according to current BLM guidelines and procedures.

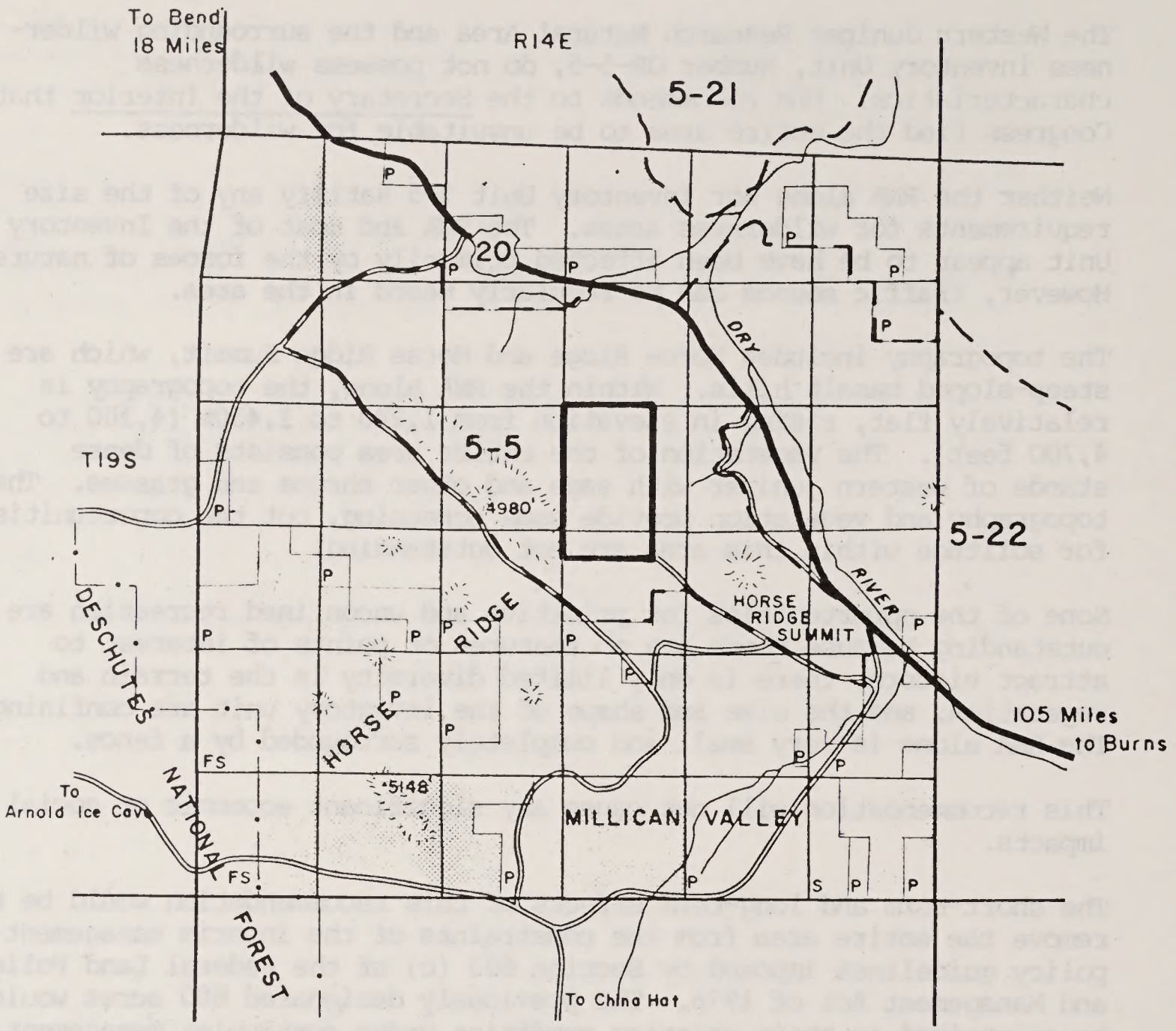
The study has not identified any options that would be foregone if this recommendation is adopted.

Paul W. Ostrosmith — 4/7/81
District Manager, Prineville — Date

William G. Leavell — 4/9/81
State Director, Oregon — Date

/s/ Robert F. Burford — July 22, 1983
Director, Bureau of Land Management — Date

WILDERNESS REVIEW
WESTERN JUNIPER INSTANT STUDY AREA



LEGEND

BOUNDARY OF ISA

BLM INVENTORY UNIT — 1-14

ELIMINATED BLM LAND

BOUNDARY OF INVENTORY UNIT

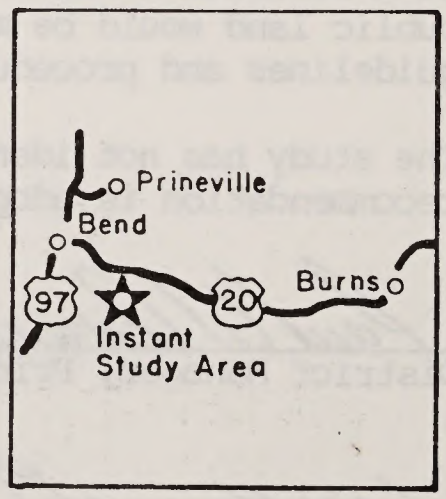
OWNERSHIP

Forest Service — FS

State — S

Private — P

GENERAL LOCATION MAP



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTER

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Western Juniper (Horse Ridge)

Research Natural Area

Deschutes County, Oregon

Prineville District

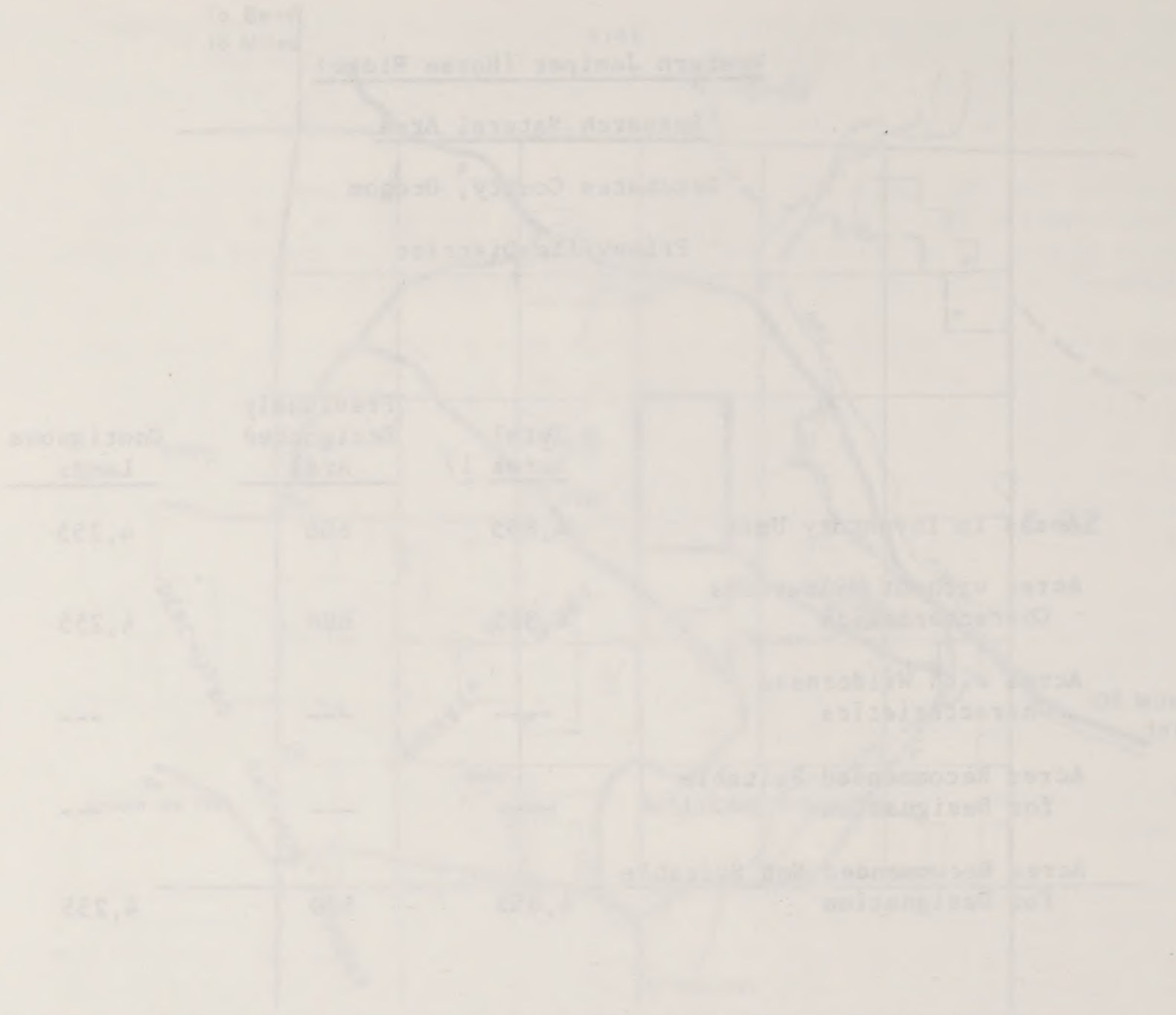
	Total Acres 1/	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands
Acres in Inventory Unit	4,855	600	4,255
Acres without Wilderness Characteristics	4,855	600	4,255
Acres with Wilderness Characteristics	----	---	---
Acres Recommended Suitable for Designation	----	---	---
Acres Recommended Not Suitable for Designation	4,855	600	4,255

OWNERSHIP OF LANDS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Gross Total Acres	Public Land	State Lands	Private Lands
4,855	4,855	----	----

1/ Public lands only.

WILDERNESS REVIEW
WESTERN JUNIPER INSTANT STUDY AREA



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1 - Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area, looking west across a ravine in the northwestern part of the RNA

Photograph No. 2 - Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area showing undergrowth and juniper trees on top of the ridge in the central part of the RNA.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area (RNA) was established in March 1967. The area is located on top of Horse Ridge, a landform which rises above the surrounding plateau. The topography within the natural area is relatively flat with gentle, rolling hills. It rises from north to south, toward Horse Ridge Summit which lies outside the area to the southeast. Virtually the entire area is covered by a western juniper/big sagebrush/threadleaf sedge plant community. A distinctive characteristic of the area is that it is essentially ungrazed, cattle not having been attracted to the area because of its distance from available water.

This natural area offers unique opportunities for several kinds of studies: 1) of hybridization of two or three native grasses, a phenomenon which appears to occur more often in the RNA than elsewhere in similar vegetation communities; 2) of the place of threadleaf sedge in the western juniper vegetation zone of central Oregon; and 3) of the influence of juniper on the distribution of other plants within its crown and root zones. No other significant resource values have been identified in the area.

The initial finding that the Western Juniper Research Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics was announced on April 26, 1979. A 60-day period for public review and comment was announced on the same day. Public meetings were held in several locations, including Bend and Portland, to discuss the preliminary finding and to receive comments.

In the initial finding it was recognized that the RNA is essentially natural and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, U. S. Highway 20 is about one mile from the RNA, the BLM managed Millican Valley off-road recreational vehicle area is less than two miles away, and the sounds from both can regularly be heard in the area. The opportunities for solitude are not outstanding because of the small size of the area, the limited amount and diversity of topographic and vegetative screening, and the intrusions of traffic sounds. There are opportunities for a number of kinds of primitive and unconfined recreational activities in the RNA, such as hiking, nature study, hunting and photography. The opportunities are less than outstanding because there are no special features or points of interest to attract visitors, there is little diversity in the terrain and vegetation, and the small size of the RNA is confining. The longest walk a person could take within the RNA would be little more than a mile before encountering its boundary fence. Finally, with only 600 acres, the RNA is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use as a wilderness area.

Ten comments were received from individuals, organizations or agencies. All ten of the comments supported the initial finding. Two of them specifically mentioned that the area and its research values should be

preserved and that research natural area designation is more appropriate than wilderness status would be. All public comments submitted regarding this area are available in the Permanent Documentation File at the Prineville District Office. Copies are also included in Appendix B of this report.

The State Director's final determination that the Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Instant Study Area does not possess wilderness characteristics was announced on August 29, 1979. At the same time it was also announced that the area would be re-evaluated during the intensive inventory of the contiguous inventory unit which surrounds the natural area.

The intensive inventory of Unit 5-5, which surrounds and includes the RNA, was carried out during 1979 and 1980. The unit contains Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit which are steep sloped basalt hills, and there is a small, jagged basalt rim parallel to the southern boundary. The vegetation community is dominated by dense stands of western juniper, with an understory of big sage, threadleaf sedge, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and other shrubs and grasses.

The State Director's proposed decision to eliminate the inventory unit from further wilderness review was announced on March 27, 1980. That announcement was followed by a 90-day period for public review and comment. Public meetings were held during the comment period at several locations, including Prineville and Portland, to discuss the proposed decision and to receive comments.

The proposed decision was based on several points. First, the inventory unit contains less than 5,000 acres and does not satisfy any of the exceptions to that minimum size requirement. Second, while most of the unit appears to be generally natural, there are a number of substantially noticeable human imprints and traffic sounds from Highway 20 and the off-road vehicle area can regularly be heard. Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding because the limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening and the small size and narrow shape of the unit would make it difficult for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. Similarly, the inventory unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because it contains no special features, there is only a limited amount of diversity in topography and vegetation, and the small size and narrow shape of the unit are confining.

Two comments were received concerning the proposed decision for Unit 5-5. One comment supported the proposed decision and one disagreed with it. The latter comment stated that the southern side of the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and that hiking and bird-watching are excellent. All public comments submitted regarding this inventory unit are in the Permanent Documentation File at the Prineville District Office. Copies are also included in Appendix B of this report.

In response to the comment opposing the proposed decision, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation were re-evaluated and the original determinations that the opportunities are not outstanding were re-affirmed. The State Director's final decision to eliminate Inventory Unit 5-5 from further wilderness review was announced on November 14, 1980. The announcement was followed by a 30-day period during which the public could file protests of the State Director's final intensive inventory decisions. No protests of the decision concerning Unit 5-5 were received and there have been no appeals of the decision filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The final decision is now in effect and the area is no longer under the constraints of the Interim Management Policy. The 600-acre RNA continues to be managed as a research natural area.

APPENDICES

A-1 Intensive Inventory of Western Juniper Instant Study Area

A-2 Intensive Inventory of Inventory Unit 5-5

B-1 Public Comments on the Instant Study Area Decision

B-2 Public Comments on the Inventory Unit Decision

APPENDIX A-1

Intensive Inventory of

Western Juniper Instant Study Area

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands): OR-5-5

Areas/Island name: Western Juniper Instant Study Area

District: Prineville State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? X yes ___ no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? ___ yes X no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ___ yes X no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? ___ yes X no

B. Resulting map.
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, recommended boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENTATION

Check one:
___ Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
X Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
___ A portion of the area(s) or island(s) should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: Paul W. Orrasmith

Date: 07-30-79

B. State Director: E. J. Peterson ACTING

Date: AUG 30 1979

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1978 O - 274-430

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

NAME OF AREA Western Juniper Instant Study Area

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics (for guidance see text in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook):

1. SIZE

Narrative:

The Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Instant Study Area contains 600 acres of contiguous public land that is about 19 miles southeast of Bend, south of U.S. Highway 20. This 600 acre natural area is a rectangular shaped tract of fenced land that lies within sections 15 and 22, T. 19 S., R. 14 E., W.M., at 43°55' N. latitude, 120° 02' W. longitude.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES (NO) (circle one)

2. Does the island have sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: [illegible] 2/23/79 DATE: 3/29/79

(Who did analysis and when)

2. NATURALNESS

Narrative: The topography of the Western Juniper Instant Study Area varies in elevation from 4,100 to 4,700 feet. It straddles a portion of Horse Ridge which rises above the relatively flat to undulating basalt plateaus of of Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit.

The vegetation within this area includes dense stands of western juniper, big sage, threadleaf sedge, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, native shrubs and native grasse species. As the topography rises in the southern portion of this area, the western juniper stands become more concentrated and surround the undulating plateaus within this area usually with an understory of big sage and threadleaf sedge plant communities.

The majority of the southern half of this area contains different sizes of reddish brown basalt rock in light brown sandy textured pumice soil. The northern half contains only isolated reddish brown rock outcropings with the same basic soil types.

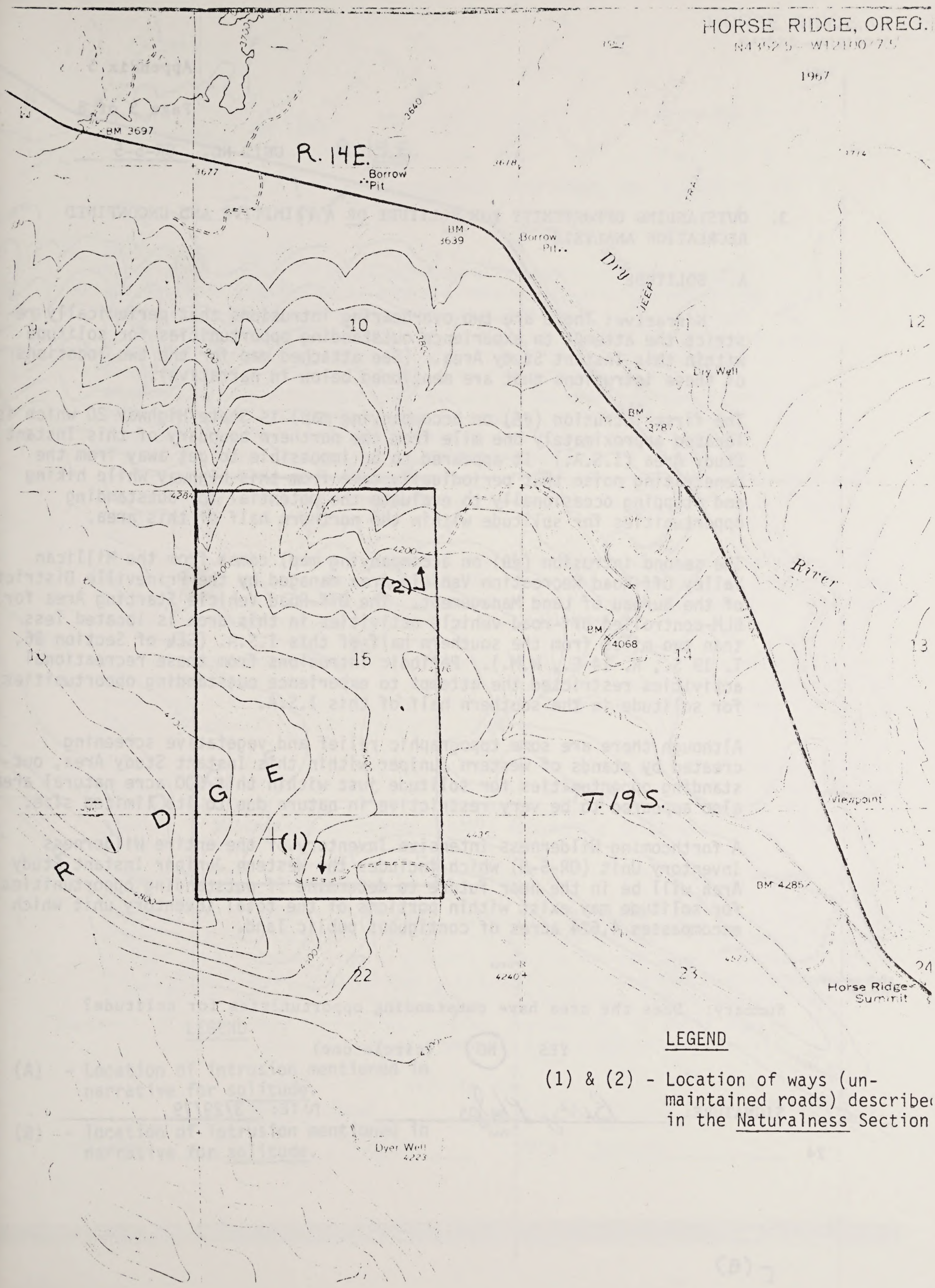
Practically all of the Western Juniper Instant Study Area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. There are two portions within this area where the primeval character of the landscape has been obviously altered by the works of man. (See map on following page for these two locations mentioned below in narrative).

Portions of two abandoned ways (unmaintained roads) located in the southeast (1) and northeast (2) portions of this fenced area are slowly back to a natural state through the forces of nature, but are noticeable within their immediate vicinity.

Summary: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Gary Phelps DATE: 3/29/79



LEGEND

(1) & (2) - Location of ways (unmaintained roads) described in the Naturalness Section

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Narrative: There are two overbearing intrusions that periodically restrict the attempt to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude within this Instant Study Area. (See attached map for the two locations of these intrusions that are mentioned below in narrative).

The first intrusion (#A) on accompanying map) is State Highway 20 which is located approximately one mile from the northern boundary of this Instant Study Area (I.S.A.) It appeared to be impossible to get away from the penetrating noise that periodically came from this highway while hiking and stopping occasionally to evaluate the potential for outstanding opportunities for solitude within the northern half of this area.

The second intrusion (#B) on accompanying map) comes from the Millican Valley Off-Road Recreation Vehicle Area managed by the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management. The Off-Road Vehicle Starting Area for BLM-controlled Off-road vehicle activities in this area is located less than two miles from the southern half of this I.S.A. (SE¼ of Section 26, T. 19 S., R. 14 E., W.M.). Periodic intrusions from these recreational activities restricted the attempt to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude in the southern half of this I.S.A.

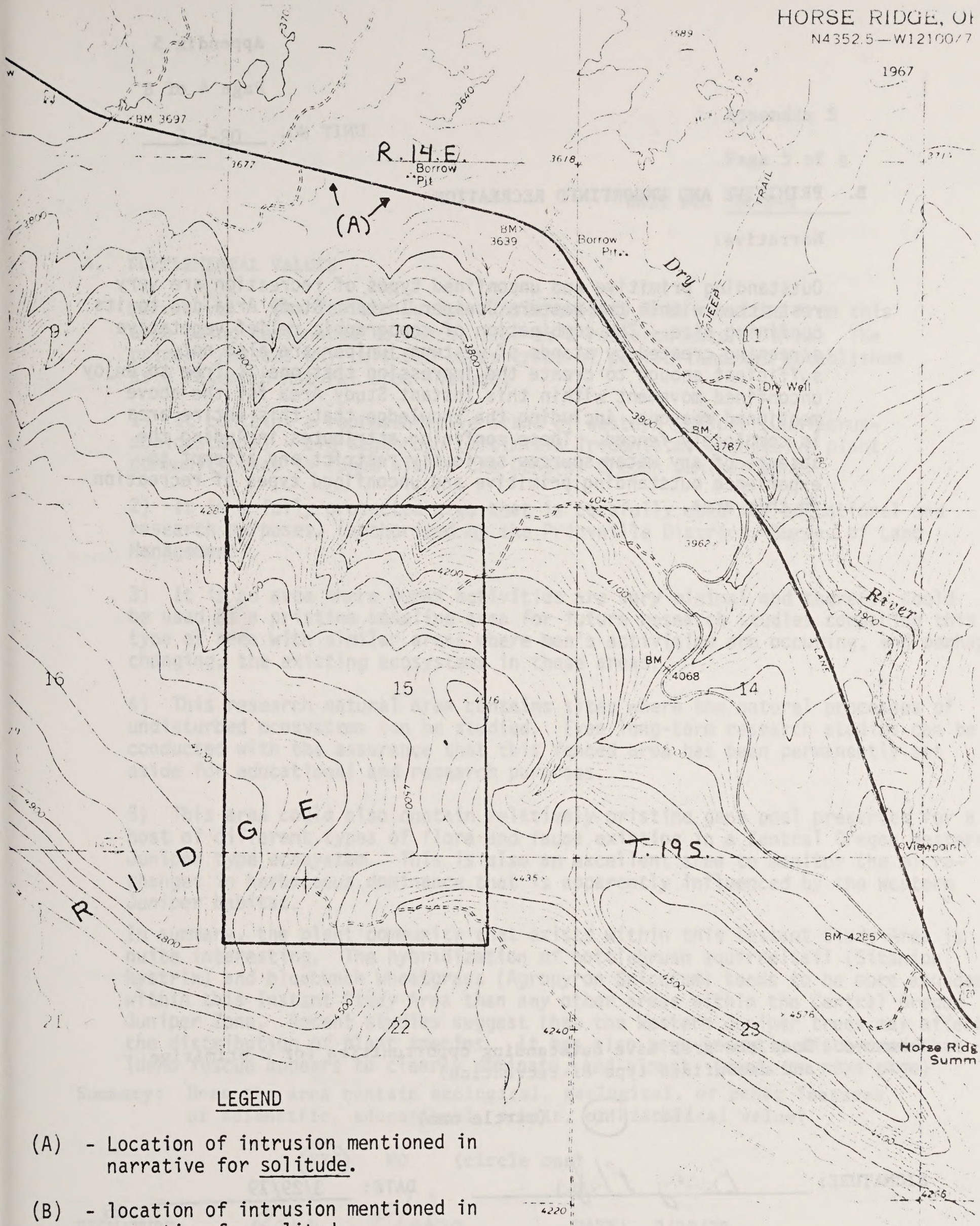
Although there are some topographic relief and vegetative screening created by stands of western juniper within this Instant Study Area, outstanding opportunities for solitude just within this 600 acre natural area also appeared to be very restrictive in nature due to its limited size.

A forthcoming Wilderness Intensive Inventory of the entire Wilderness Inventory Unit (OR-5-5) which includes the Western Juniper Instant Study Area will be in the near future to determine if outstanding opportunities for solitude may exist within portions of the total inventory unit which encompasses 4,624 acres of contiguous public land.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Barry Phelps DATE: 3/29/79



LEGEND

(A) - Location of intrusion mentioned in narrative for solitude.

(B) - location of intrusion mentioned in narrative for solitude.

(B) 7

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Narrative:

Outstanding primitive and unconfined types of recreation are very restricted within the western Juniper Instant Study Area due to its confining size. The combination of topographic relief vegetative screening created by stands of western juniper are also not sufficient enough to create the impression that one is free to enjoy unconfined movement within this Instant Study Area for the above mentioned reasons, including the knowledge that this entire area is completely fenced. These confining attributes including the absence of any water sources seriously restrict any attempt to experience outstanding primitive and unconfined types of recreation in this area.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Barry Pfeifer DATE: 3/29/79

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: The Western Juniper Instant Study Area resulted from this area being designated in March, 1967 as a research natural area. The primary reasons why this 600 acres tract of public land was established as a research natural area include;

1) It contains a representative stand of western juniper (Juniperus-occidentalis) - big sagebrush (artimisia Tridentata) vegetative plant community that is found within the Central Oregon Juniper zone.

2) It is a fully protected area that is carefully used for educational and research purposes. (authorized by the Prinveille District, Bureau of Land Management).

3) It is an area where human activities are very minimal and therefor could be used as a pristine baseline area for future research studies comparing this type of area with similar areas where man's activities are occuring, and perhaps changing, the existing ecosystems in these areas.

4) This research natural area contains sites where the natural processes of undisturbed ecosystems can be studied. Even long-term research studies can be conducted with the assurance that this fenced area has been permanently set aside for educational and research purposes.

5) This area could also contain relatively pristine gene pool preserves for a host of different types of flora and fauna existing in a Central Oregon Western Juniper type ecosystem. This is also an excellent area to monitor the micro-changes in herbaceous dominance that is apparently influenced by the Western Juniper habitat.

In summary, the plant community that exists within this Instant Study Area is quite interesting. The hybridization of bottlebrush squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix) and bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropyron Spicatum) tends to be more abundant within this Instant Study Area than any other areas within the Central Oregon Juniper Zone. Recent studies suggest that the Western Juniper trees may affect the distribution of plant species. It has also been recently discovered that Idaho fescue appears to clearly dominate, and almost (cont. on next page)

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Berry Phelps DATE: 3/29/79

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES (Continued)

Narrative:
completely exclude big sagebrush, and greatly reduce the quantity of threadleaf sedge in portions of this area.

These apparently unique conditions contribute to a very unique community where the microchanges in herbaceous dominance that are apparently influenced by the Western Juniper trees can be carefully monitored.

A tentative list of mammals that are believed to exist within this Instant Study Area is also included with this section of the Wilderness Intensive Inventory.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Barry Phelps DATE: 3/29/79

4) Supplemental Values

TENTATIVE LIST OF MAMMALS FOR HORSE RIDGE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Order	Scientific name	Common name
Insectivora	Sorex merriami	Merriam shrew
	Sorex vagrans	wandering shrew
Chiroptera	Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat
	Eptesicus fuscus	big brown bat
	Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat
	Lasiurus borealis	red bat
	Lasiurus cinereus	hoary bat
	Myotis californicus	California myotis
	Myotis evotis	long-eared myotis
	Myotis lucifugus	little brown myotis
	Myotis subulatus	small-footed myotis
	Myotis thysanodes	fringed myotis
	Myotis volans	long-legged myotis
	Myotis yumanensis	Yumma myotis
	Pipistrellus hesperus	western pipistrel
	Plecotus townsendi	Townsend big-eared bat
Lagomorpha	Lepus californicus	black-tailed jack rabbit
	Sylvilagus idahoensis	pigmy rabbit
	Sylvilagus nuttalli	mountain cottontail
Rodentia	Dipodomys ordi	Ord kangaroo rat
	Erethizon dorsatum	porcupine
	Eutamias minimus	least chipmunk
	Lagurus curtatus	sage vole
	Marmota flaviventris	yellow-bellied marmot
	Microtus longicaudus	long-tailed vole
	Microtu montanus	mountain vole
	Neotoma cinerea	bushy-tailed wood rat
	Onychomys leucogaster	northern grasshopper mouse
	Perognathus parvus	Great Basin pocket mouse
	Peromyscus maniculatus	deer mouse
	Reithrodontomys megalotis	western harvest mouse
	Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrel
	Spermophilus beldingi	Belding ground squirrel
	Spermophilus townsendi	Townsend ground squirrel
	Thomomys talpoides	northern pocket gopher
Carnivora	Canis latrans	coyote
	Lynx rufus	bobcat
	Mephitis mephitis	striped skunk
	Mustela frenata	long-tailed weasel
	Spilogale putorius	spotted skunk or civet cat
	Taxidea taxus	badger
	Urocyon cinereoargenteus	gray fox
	Vulpes fulva	red fox
Artiodactyla	Odocoileus h. hemionus	mule deer

UNIT NO. OR-5-5

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative:

The two ways (unmaintained roads) identified in the Naturalness Section are in the process of reverting back through the forces of nature to a natural condition without interference by man.

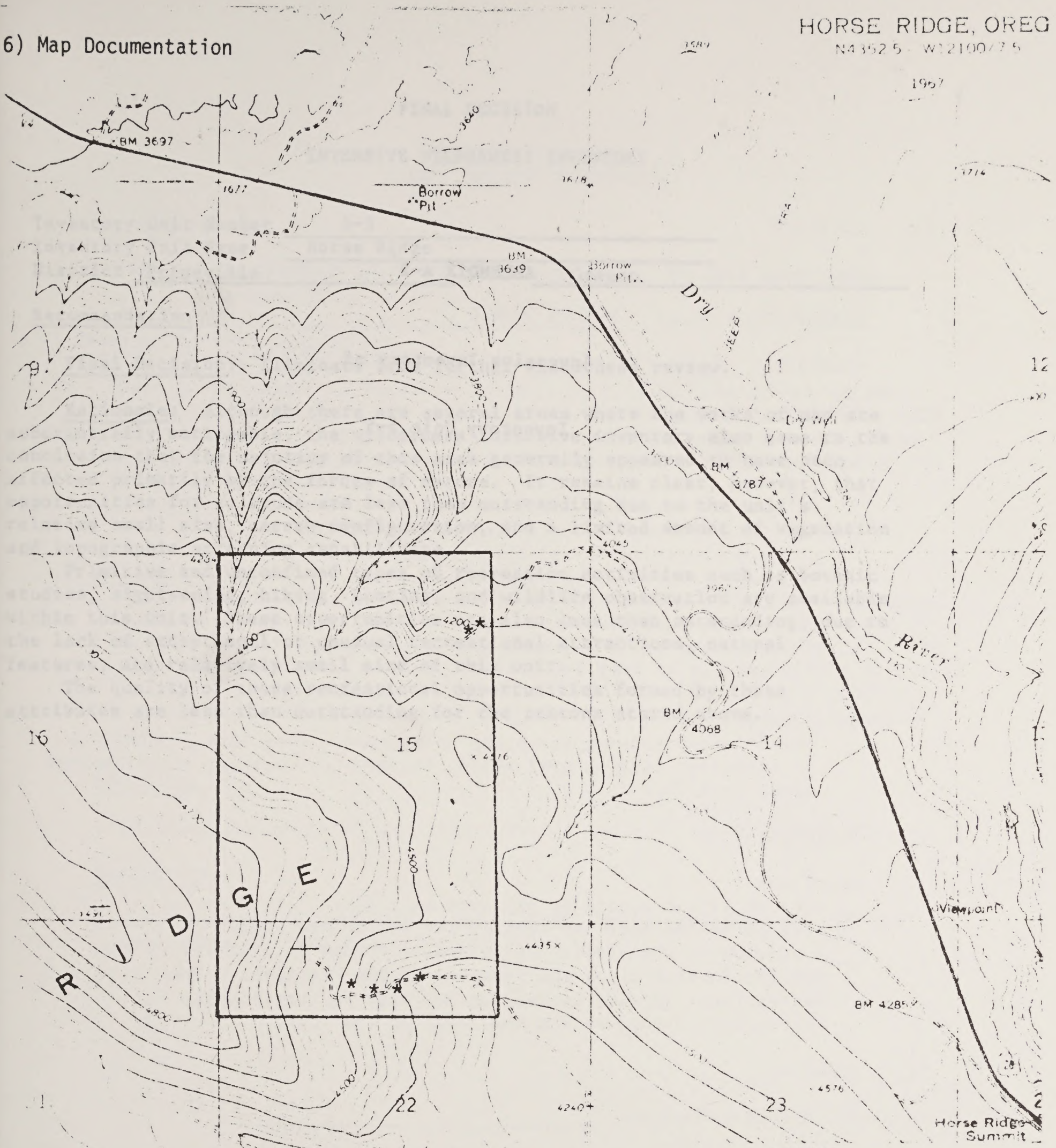
In addition the abundance of vegetation combined with the surrounding terrain tends to reduce the visual evidence of these ways within the two identified portions of this Instant Study Area. (See map on following page).

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Barry Prefer DATE: 3/29/79

6) Map Documentation



LEGEND

☐ Western Juniper Instant Study Area Boundary

* Areas with possibility of returning to a natural condition.

APPENDIX A-2

Invensive Inventory of

Inventory Unit 5-5

FINAL DECISION

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Inventory Unit Number 5-5
Inventory Unit Name Horse Ridge
District Prineville State Oregon

Recommendation

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although there are several areas where the works of man are substantially noticeable, the wilderness intensive inventory also came to the conclusion that the majority of this area generally appeared to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It remains clear, however, that opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the unit's relative small size, narrow configuration, and a limited amount of vegetation and topographic screening capabilities.

Primitive and unconfined types of recreation activities such as botanic studies, sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation are available within this unit. These opportunities are also less than outstanding, due to the lack of exceptional or unusual recreational attractions, natural features, and relatively small size of this unit.

The quality of these recreational opportunities formed by these attributes are less than outstanding for the reasons stated above.

Staff Specialist Berry P Lefs Date 9/5/80

Approval

District Manager _____ Date _____

Enclosure 3

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands): 5-5

Areas/Island name: Horse Ridge

District: Prineville State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? X yes ___ no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? ___ yes X no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X yes ___ no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? X yes ___ no

B. Resulting map.
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, recommended boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENTATION

Check one:
___ Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
X Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
___ A portion of the area(s) or island(s) should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: _____

Date: _____

B. State Director: _____

Date: _____

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1978 O - 274-430

Prineville District

Unit Number: 5-5

Unit Name: Horse Ridge (This unit encompasses the 600 acre Horse Ridge Instant Study Area)

Revision of Unit Boundaries:

During the intensive inventory of this unit, a portion of the northern boundary did not meet the wilderness road criteria. (See 5-5 Appendix-A in this casefile for details.) An additional 231 acres of public land mangaed by BLM was added to this unit (was excluded later because of its small size and unnaturalness).

I. SIZE

This unit contains 4,855 acres of public land managed by BLM. 233 acres were mainly excluded because a small area was bisected from the main portion of this unit, (231 acres) due to the old State Highway 20. The other two acres were excluded because two ways were found within this unit in a highly unnatural condition. The remaining acreage that generally remains in a natural condition is 4,622 acres of public land managed by BLM.

Location:

19 miles southeast of Bend, and directly south of State Highway 20.

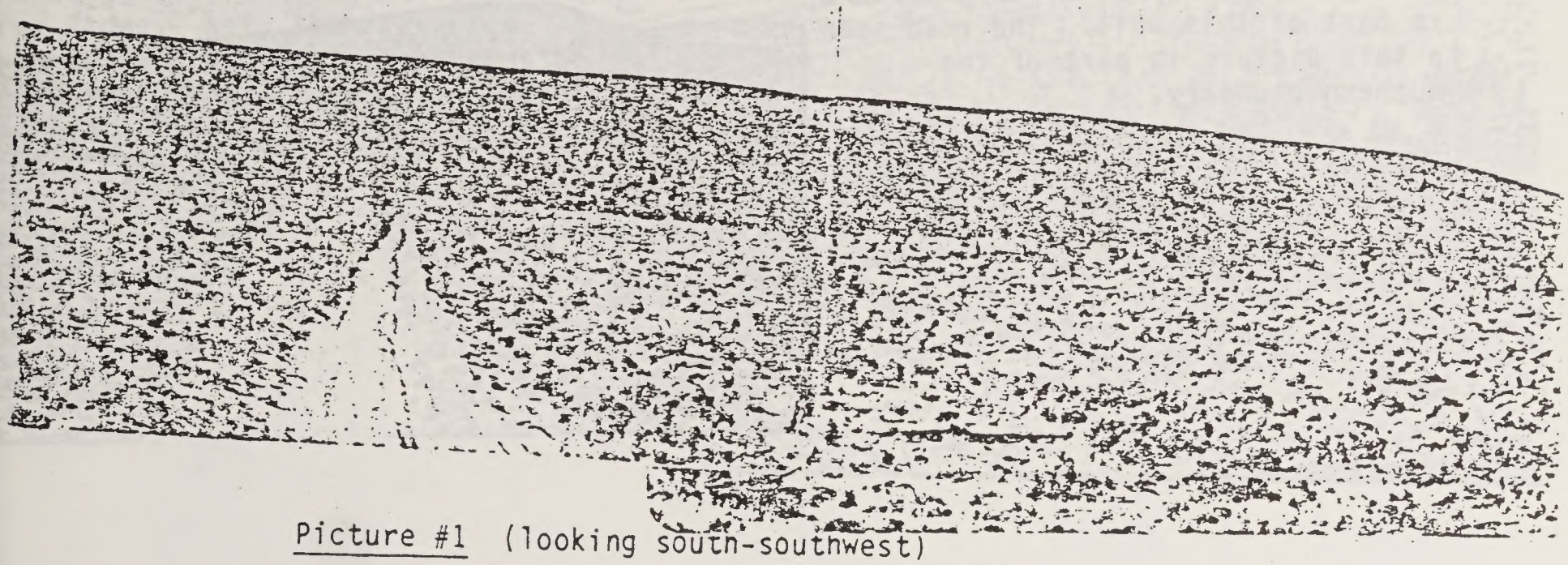
Boundaries:

BLM, State maintained roads, and private inholdings encompass all the boundaries of this unit.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

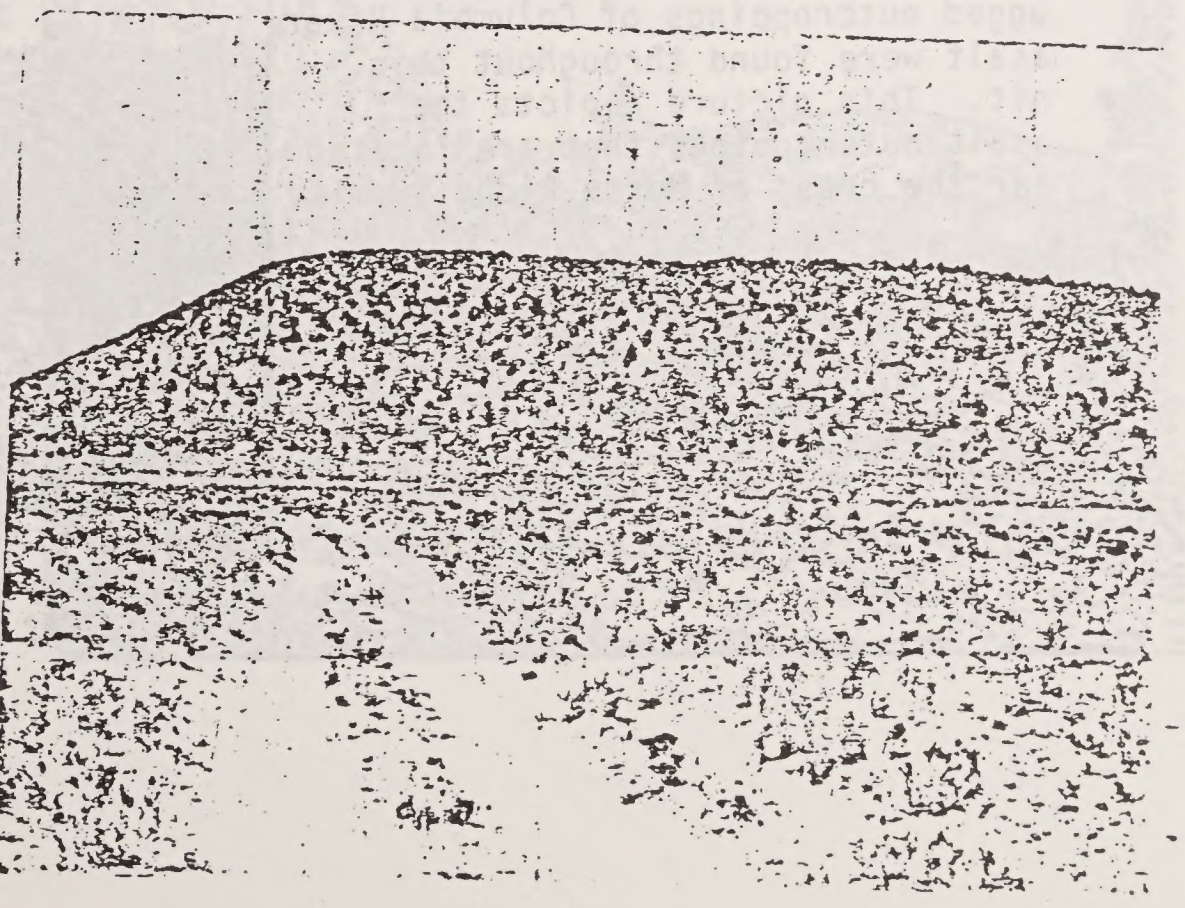
The Horse Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit is approximately five miles long and up to 2.5 miles wide. There are two major topographic features that dominate this landscape. Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit extend in an east-west direction for approximately 4 miles, and are located just south of State Highway 20. Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit rise several hundred feet above the small bajadas north of these high rolling hills. (See picture #1 in this section.) The contrast between Horse Ridge and the desert plateau along the southern boundary of this unit isn't very high, due to the higher elevation of the desert plateau that can be seen in picture #2 within this section. The core of this unit contains rolling terrain that accommodates different densities and clusters of juniper trees. Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit are rather dome shaped, and contain several small ravines that radiate out from the northern flank of these hills. Picture #1 in this section best illustrates the topography and vegetative composition of this unit. The southwestern portion of Horse Ridge rises to the south for about one mile, then abruptly slopes downward, joining a secluded valley just south of the unit boundary, as seen in picture #3 in this section. A relatively dense stand of western juniper trees shelters several isolated outcroppings of Columbia River Basalt, scattered among countless amounts of small basalt rocks that can also be seen in picture #2 in this section. There are also basalt outcroppings on Horse Ridge Summit (around 4,700 feet in elevation), as seen in picture #4 in this section. The predominant understory plant species within this unit (including the Horse Ridge Research Natural Area/Instant Study Area) that were identified within this unit include big sage, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, threadleaf sedge, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and other plant species. The Horse Ridge Research Natural Area/Instant Study Area contains 600 acres of public land that is completely surrounded by the Horse Ridge Inventory Unit. (See Supplemental Values - Section VI for details.) The northwestern portion of Unit 5-5 also contains several shallow basins along the northern and western flanks of Horse Ridge. (See picture #5 in this section.) Several different densities of juniper trees within this portion also create interesting vegetative patterns when viewed from a distance (see picture #1 in this section.). A small bajada extends north and west of Horse Ridge, that accommodates a healthy stand of juniper trees. (See picture #6 in this section.)

II. Description of the Environment Photo Log



Picture #1 (looking south-southwest)

Horse Ridge Summit is located in the extreme left-hand corner of this picture. Horse Ridge can almost be entirely seen in this picture. Note the irregular vegetative patterns and densities of the juniper trees scattered on this dome shaped hill. This picture was taken in Unit 5-21, north of State Highway 20. Horse Ridge lies just south of this State Highway, which can be partically seen in the left hand portion of this picture.

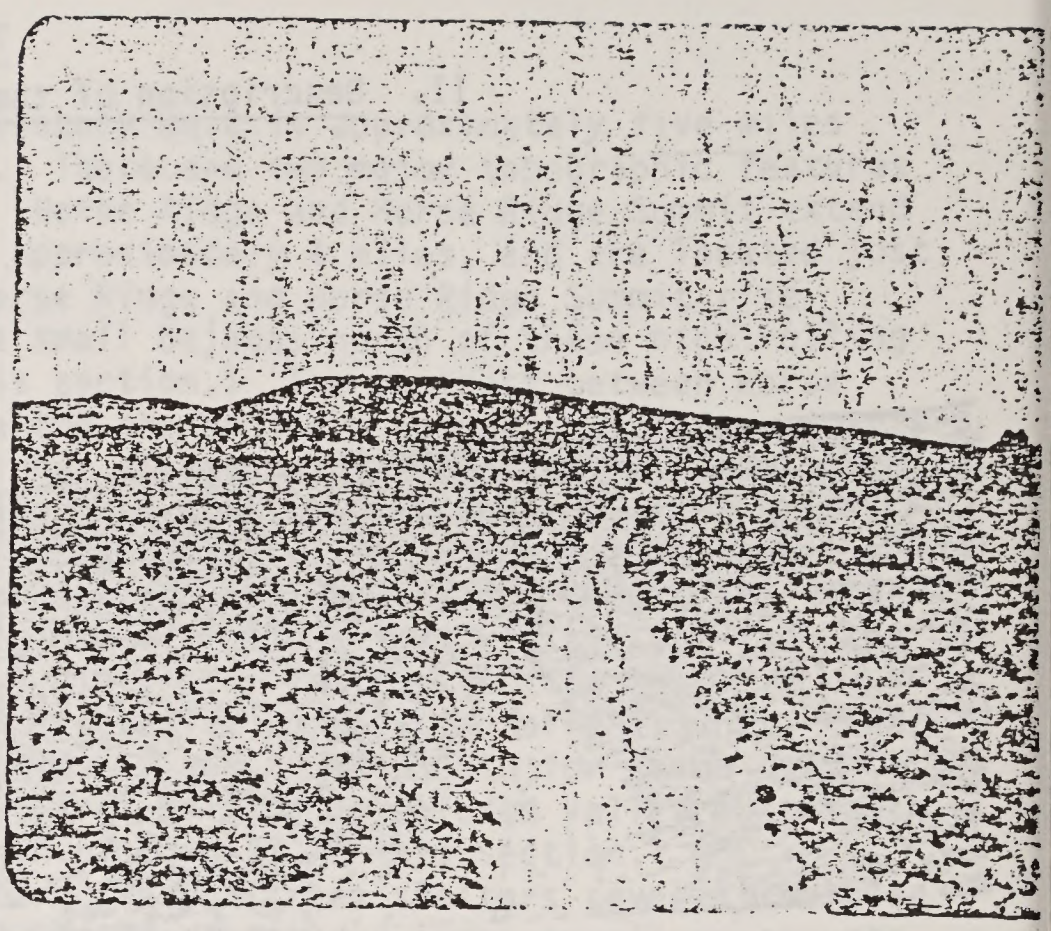


icture #2 (looking W.-N.West)

orse Ridge abruptly ends in the S. estern portion of this unit, joining secluded valley south of the outhern boundary road that is seen n this picture.

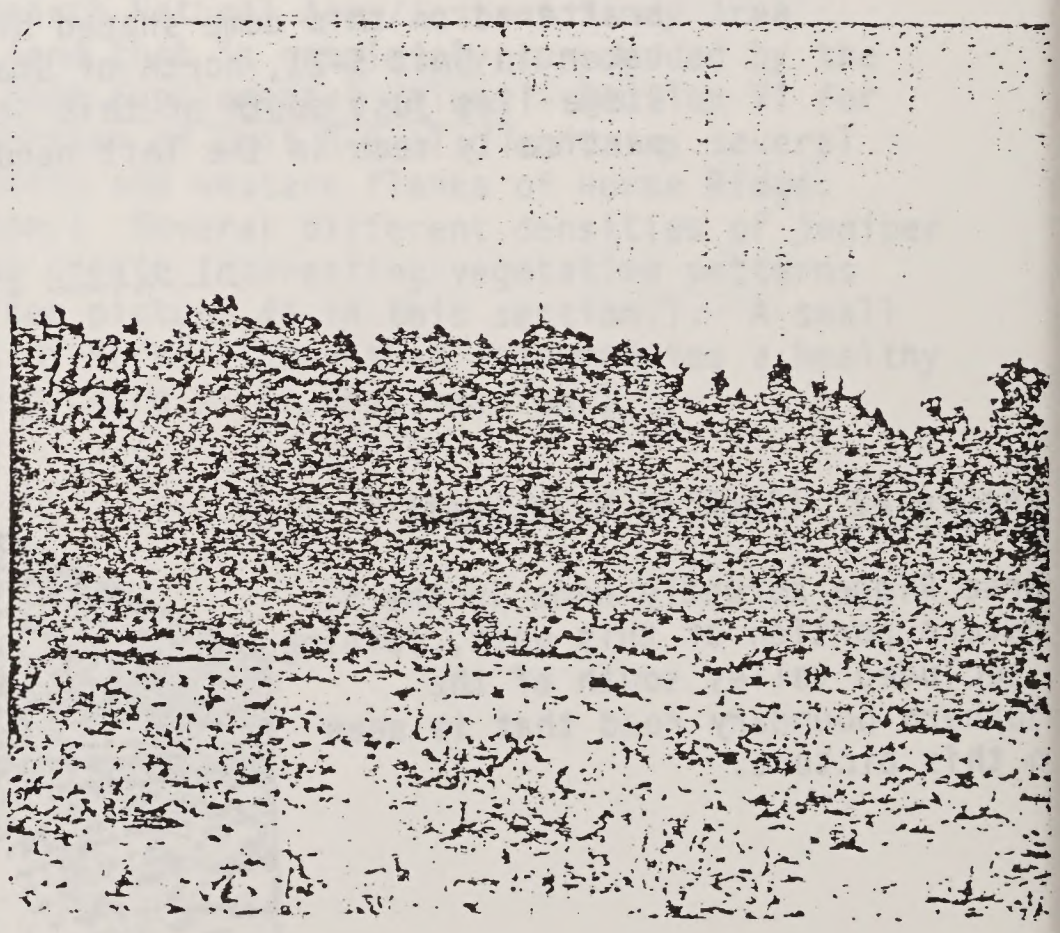
icture #3 (looking West)

he stands of juniper trees seen in
he right hand corner of this picture
re part of this unit. The road seen
n this picture is part of the
outhern boundary.



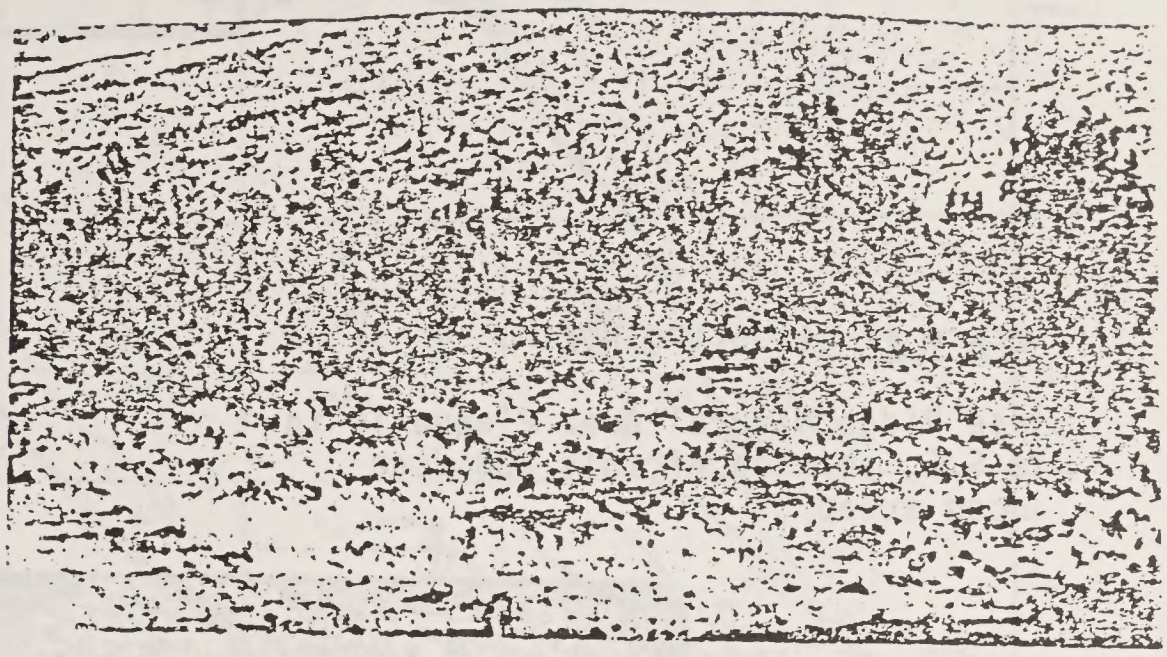
'icture #4 (looking West)

ugged outcroppings of Columbia River
asalt were found throughout this
nit. This picture depicts the
asalt outcroppings that are located
ear the crest of Horse Ridge Summit.



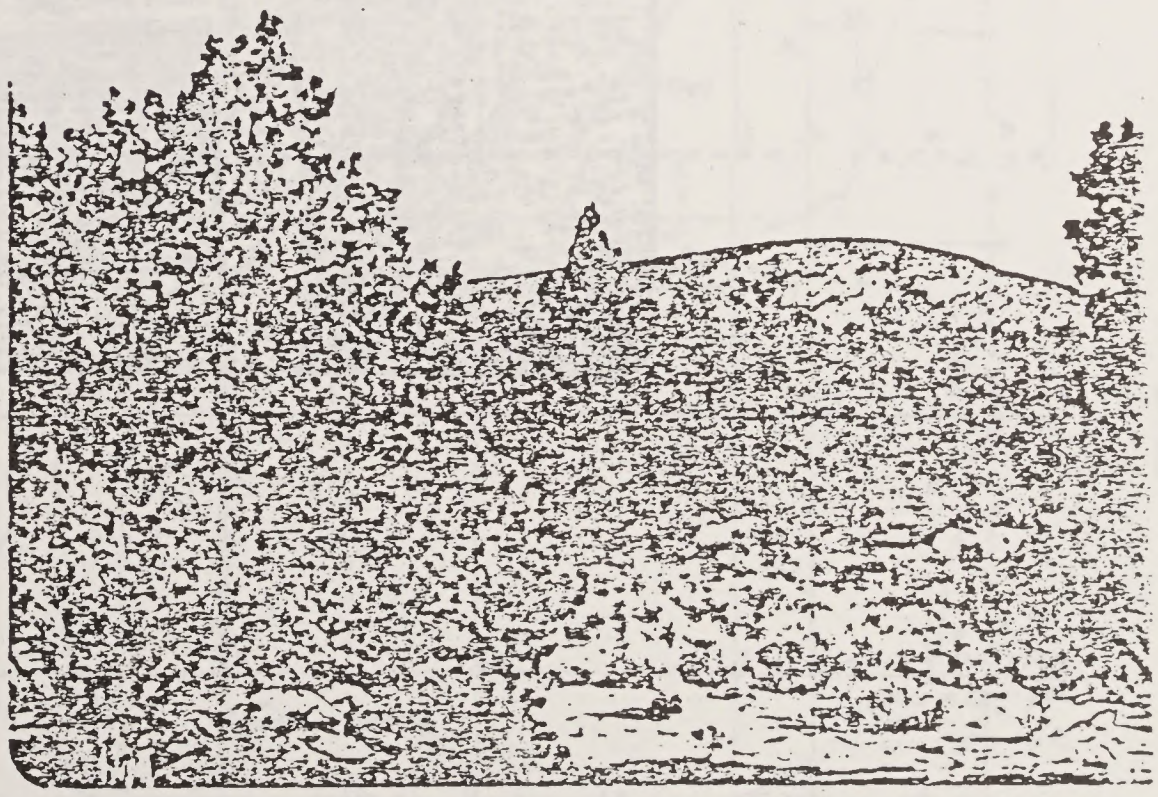
cture #5 (looking S. East)

:ry shallow and open faced draws are
'pical of topography found along the
)rthern and northwestern flanks of
)rse Ridge. Note the irregular
:nsities and vegetative patterns of
ıe juniper trees in this portion of
ıe unit.



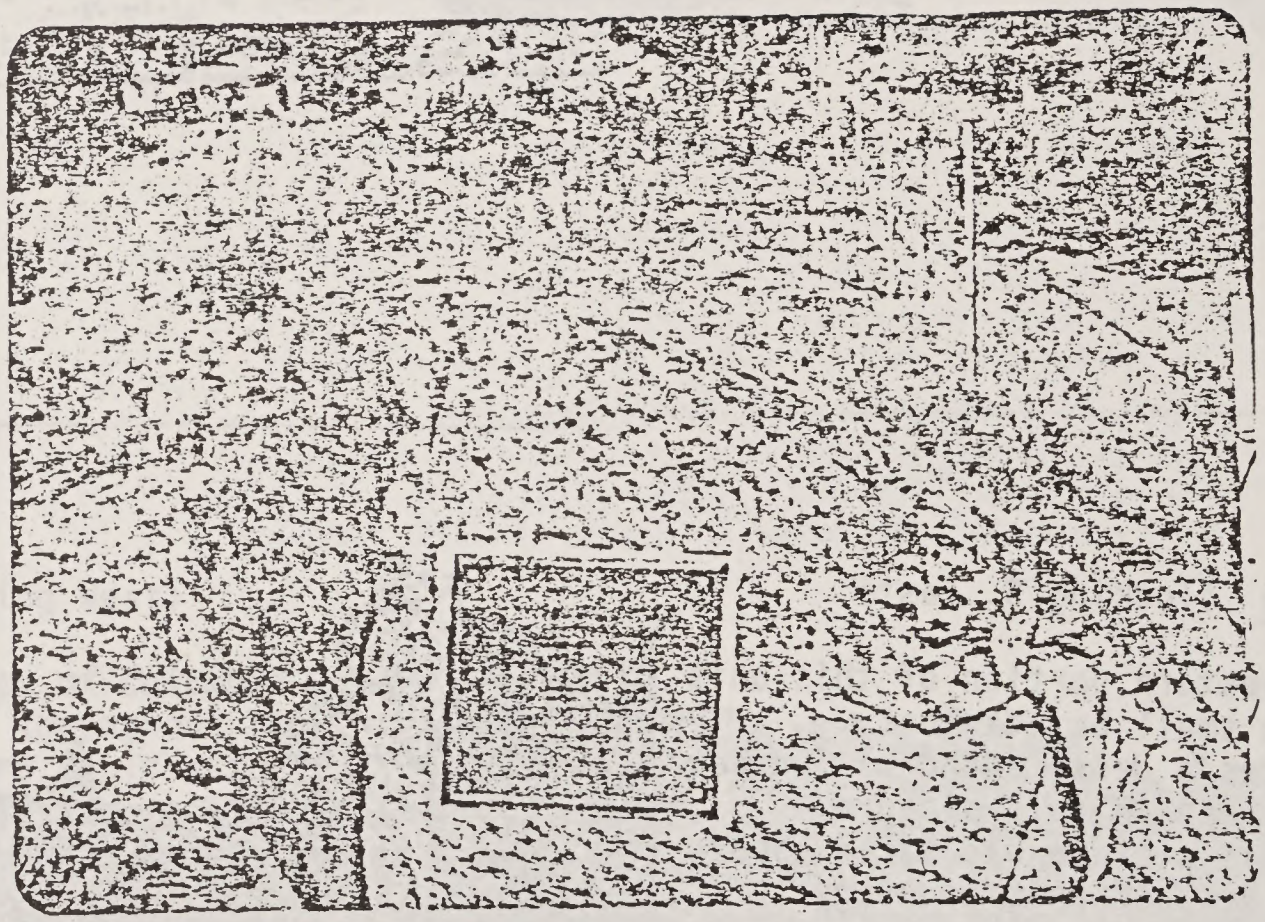
cture #6 (looking S. East)

e northwestern portion of this unit
ntains a small bajada that
commodates a dense stand of juniper
ees, as seen in this picture.
ote: this picture was taken about
5 miles N.W. of unit boundary.)



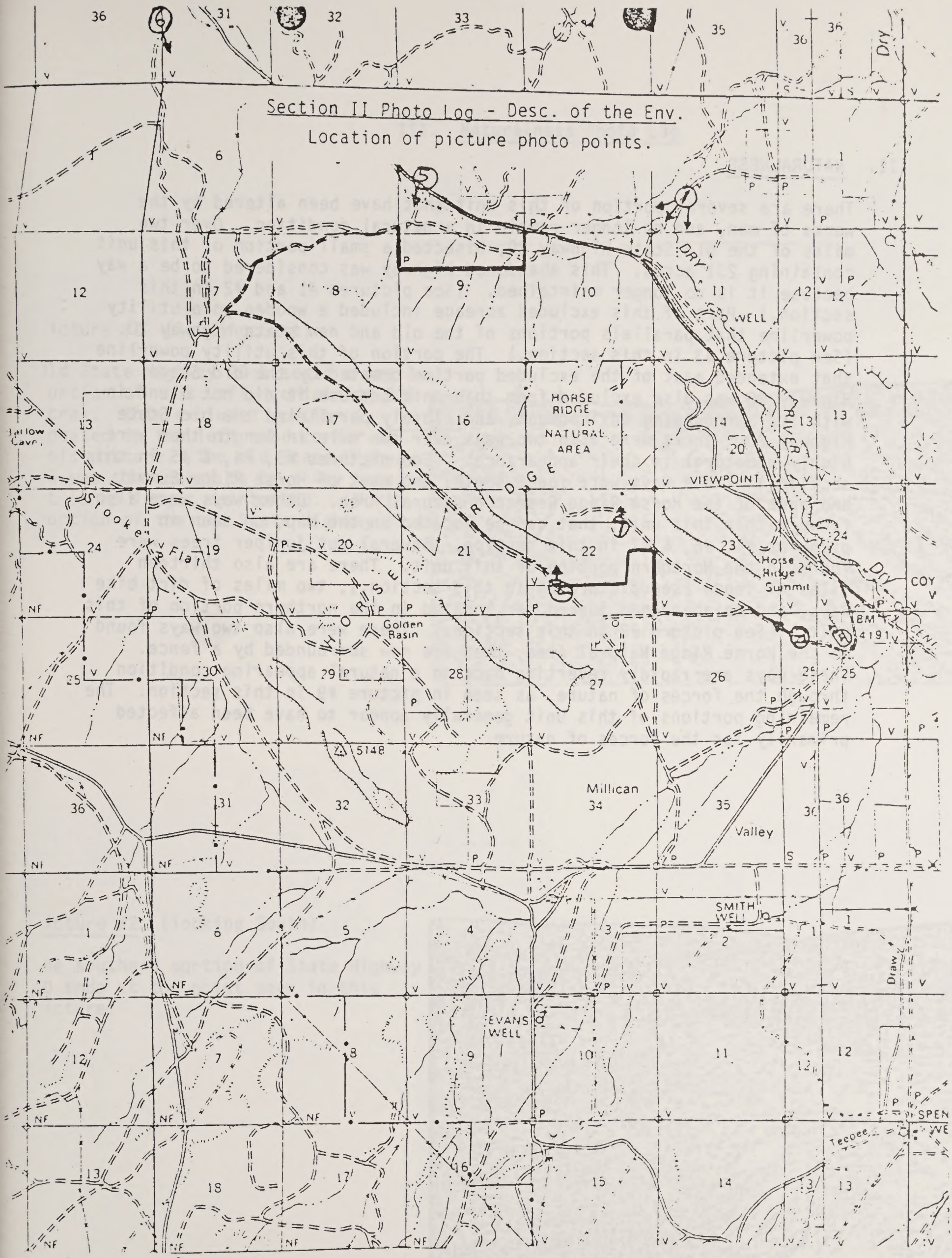
cture #7 (looking North)

ırse Ridge Natural Area Plaque is in
ıe S.E. portion of this 600 acre
ɔnced area.



Section II Photo Log - Desc. of the Env.

Location of picture photo points.



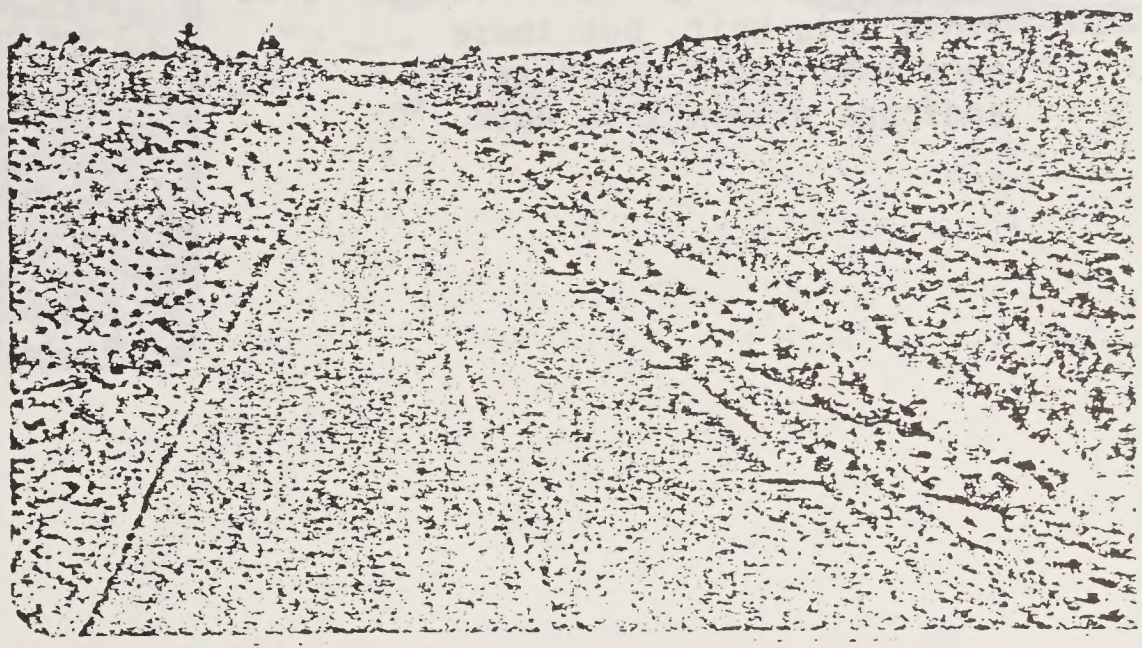
III. NATURALNESS

There are several portion of this unit that have been altered by the works of man, and no longer remain in a natural condition. Over two miles of the old State Highway 20, bisected a small portion of this unit containing 231 acres. This abandoned highway was considered to be a way because it is no longer maintained. (See pictures #1 and #2 in this section.) Part of this excluded acreage included a wooden pole utility powerline that parallels portions of the old and new state highway 20. (See picture #3 in this section.) The portion of this utility powerline that extended east of the excluded portion created by the old State Highway 20 was also excluded from this unit because it did not blend in with its surrounding environment, and closely paralleled the old State Highway 20. There were also two ways over two mile in length that were highly unnatural in their appearance. (See pictures #3, #4, & #5 in this section.) These ways were found south, and east of Horse Ridge Summit, and east of the Horse Ridge Research Natural Area. Other ways were also found within this unit, that can be located on the map, or seen in pictures #4, #6, & #7 in this section. Several cut juniper trees were found in the Northern portion of this unit. There are also thirteen miles of fence (see picture #4 in this section.), two miles of dirt bike ways, and an abandoned junked car located in the northern portion of this unit. (See picture #8 in this section.) There were also two ways found in the Horse Ridge Natural Area, that are now surrounded by a fence. These ways are rapidly reverting back to a natural appearing condition through the forces of nature, as seen in picture #9 in this section. The remaining portions of this unit generally appear to have been affected primarily for the forces of nature.

III. Naturalness Photo Log

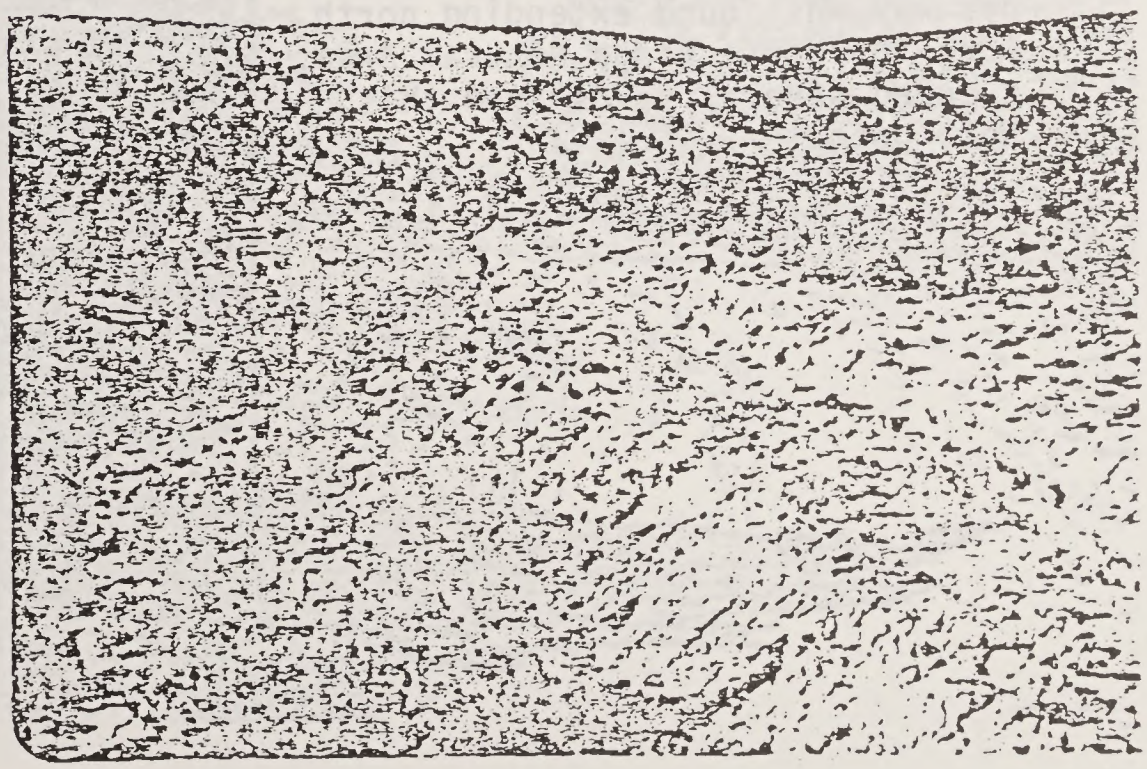
icture #1 (looking East)

)ld State Highway 20 bisects a small ortion of this unit, containing 231 .cres. This excluded portion is ocated in the left hand corner of .his picture. The old State Highway :0 was considered to be a way because t is no longer maintained. (North)ortion of the old State Highway 20.)



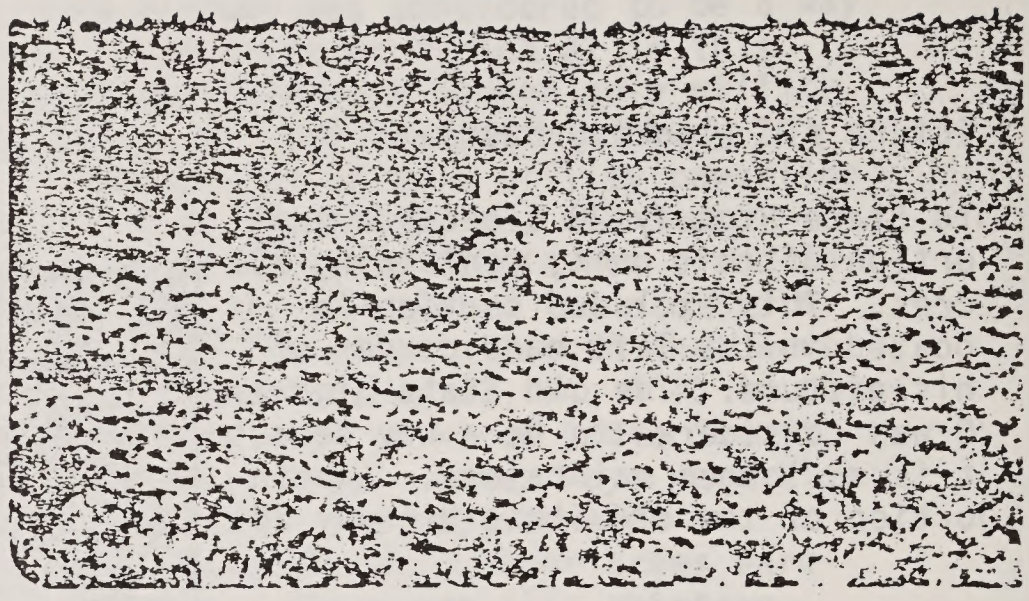
icture #2 (looking South)

he southern portion of State Highway 0 ends at the point seen in this icture.



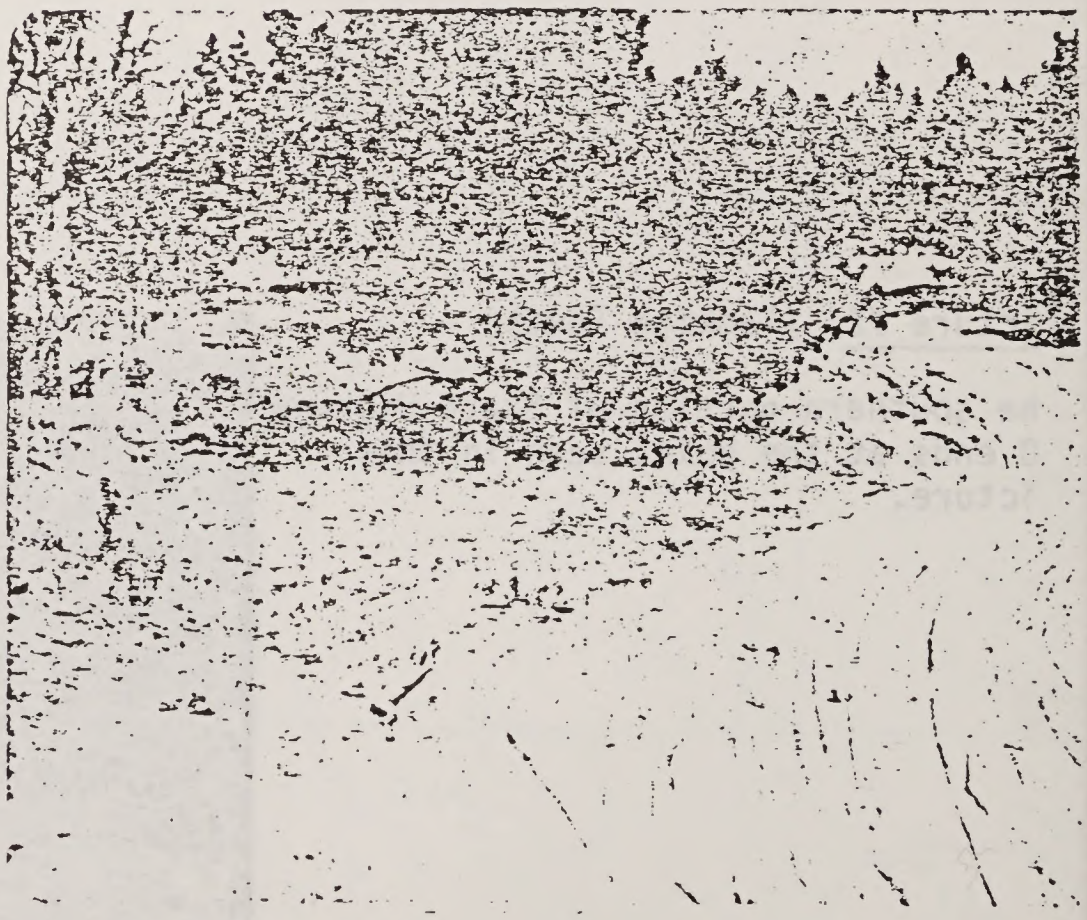
icture #3 (looking South)

ne of the ways described in the arrative for Section III can be seen n the crest of Horse Ridge Summit. oint A is the utility powerline that arallels State Highway 20. Note the ence in the foreground of this icture. There are 13 miles of fence ithin this unit, but these encelines don't dominate the andscape within this unit.



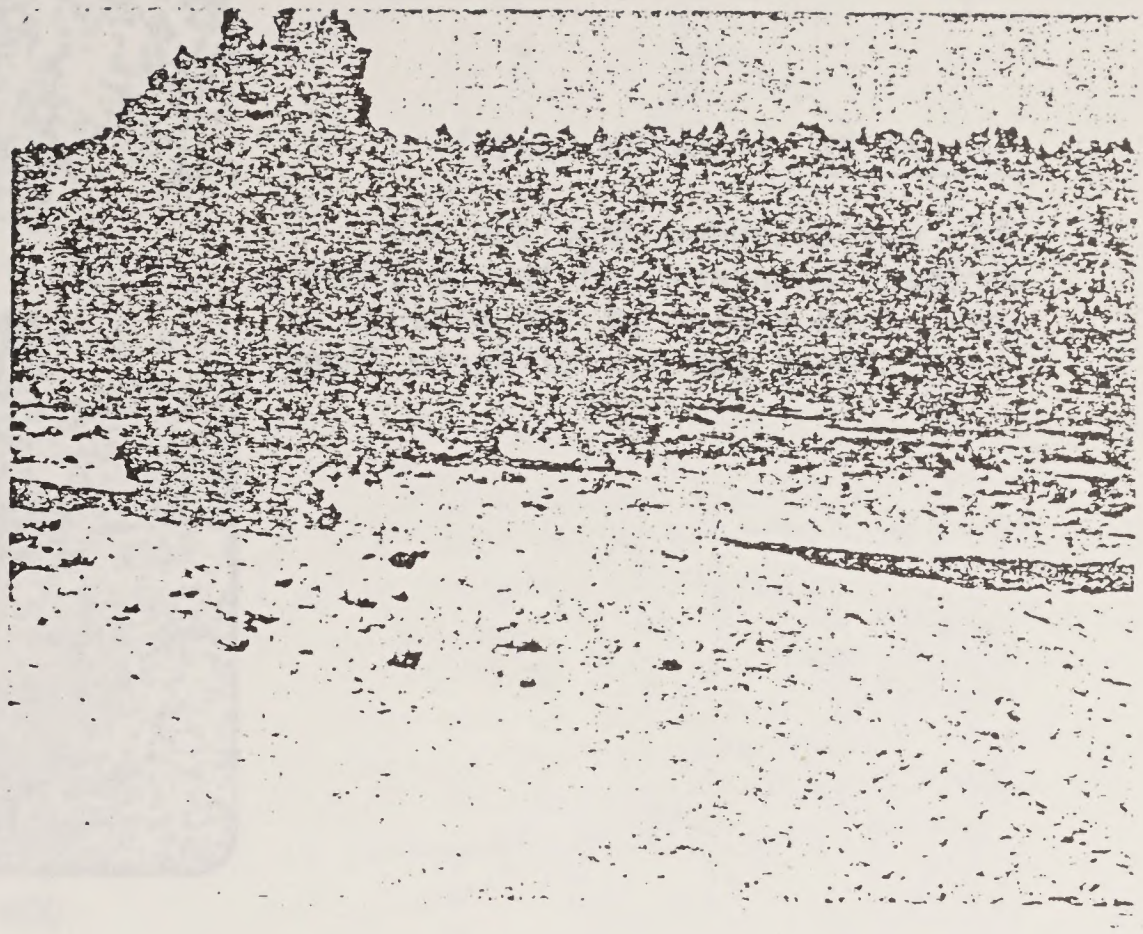
icture #4 (looking North)

his way was found extending north long the Horse Ridge Natural Area. t ended several yards from this hoto point.



Picture #5 (looking North)

This small area was excluded from this unit because of its unnatural appearance. Two ways extended N.W. & N.E. from this area, and were also excluded because of their unnatural appearance within the natural appearing landscape along the southern flank of Horse Ridge Summit.

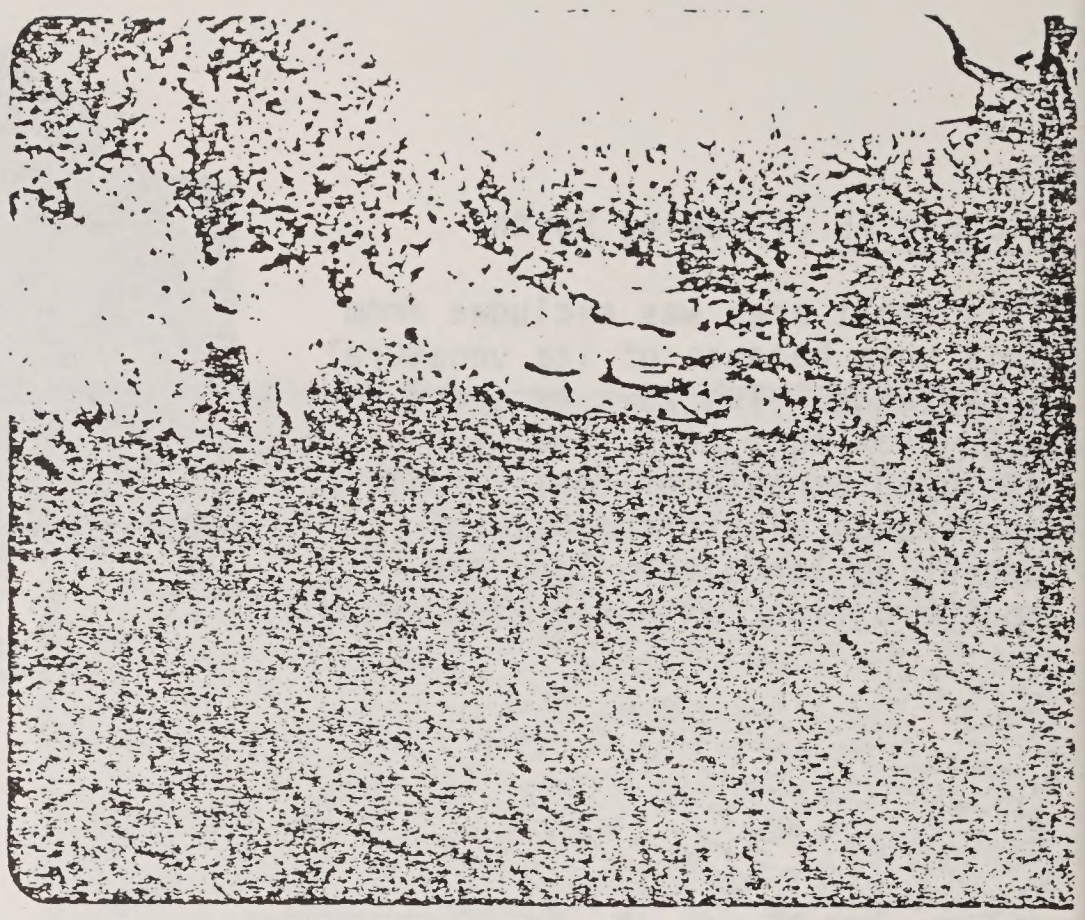


Picture #6 (looking West)

This way extended from the eastern boundary of this unit, westward up the eastern flank of Horse Ridge Summit, near the basalt outcroppings seen in picture #4 in Section II. This way should be closed to ORV use. The erosion potential of this way appeared to be very high.

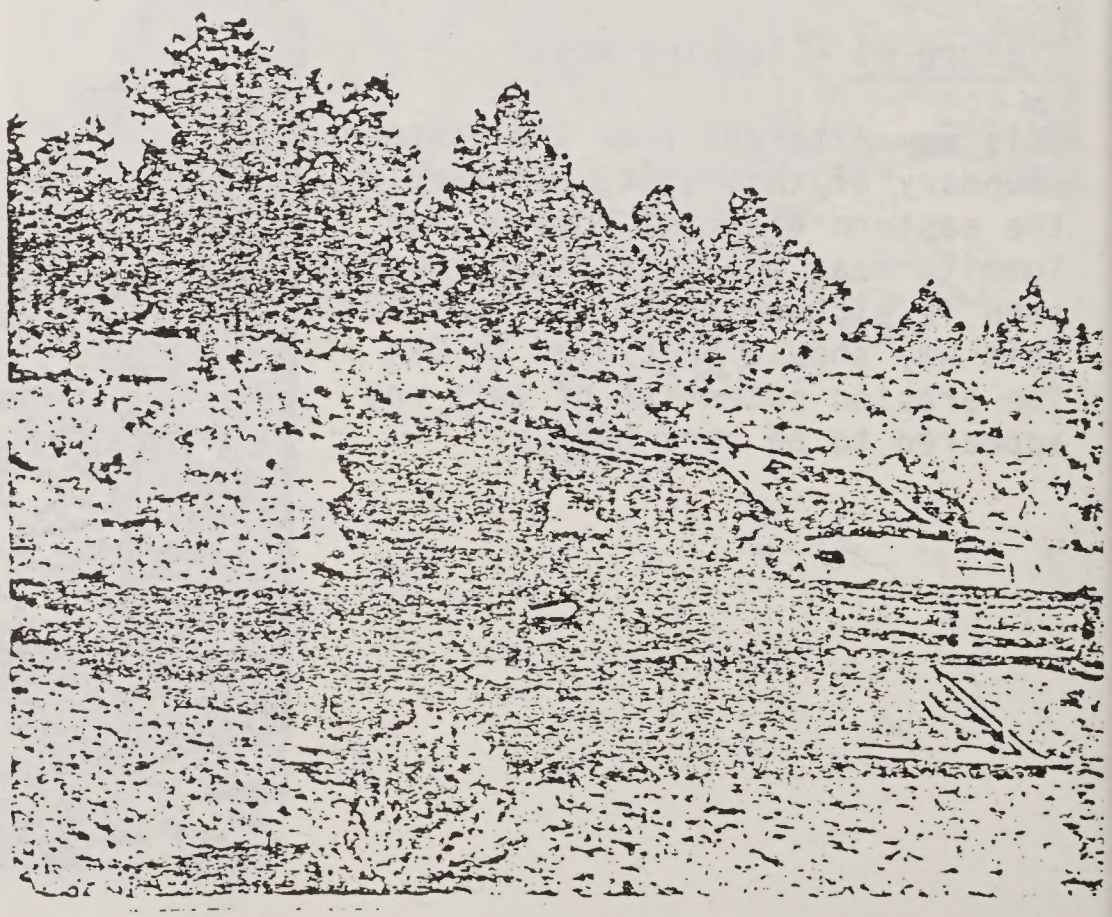
Picture #7 (looking North)

This way extended from the mid northern boundary, southward along a draw, dead ending at the base of a steep sloped portion of Horse Ridge.



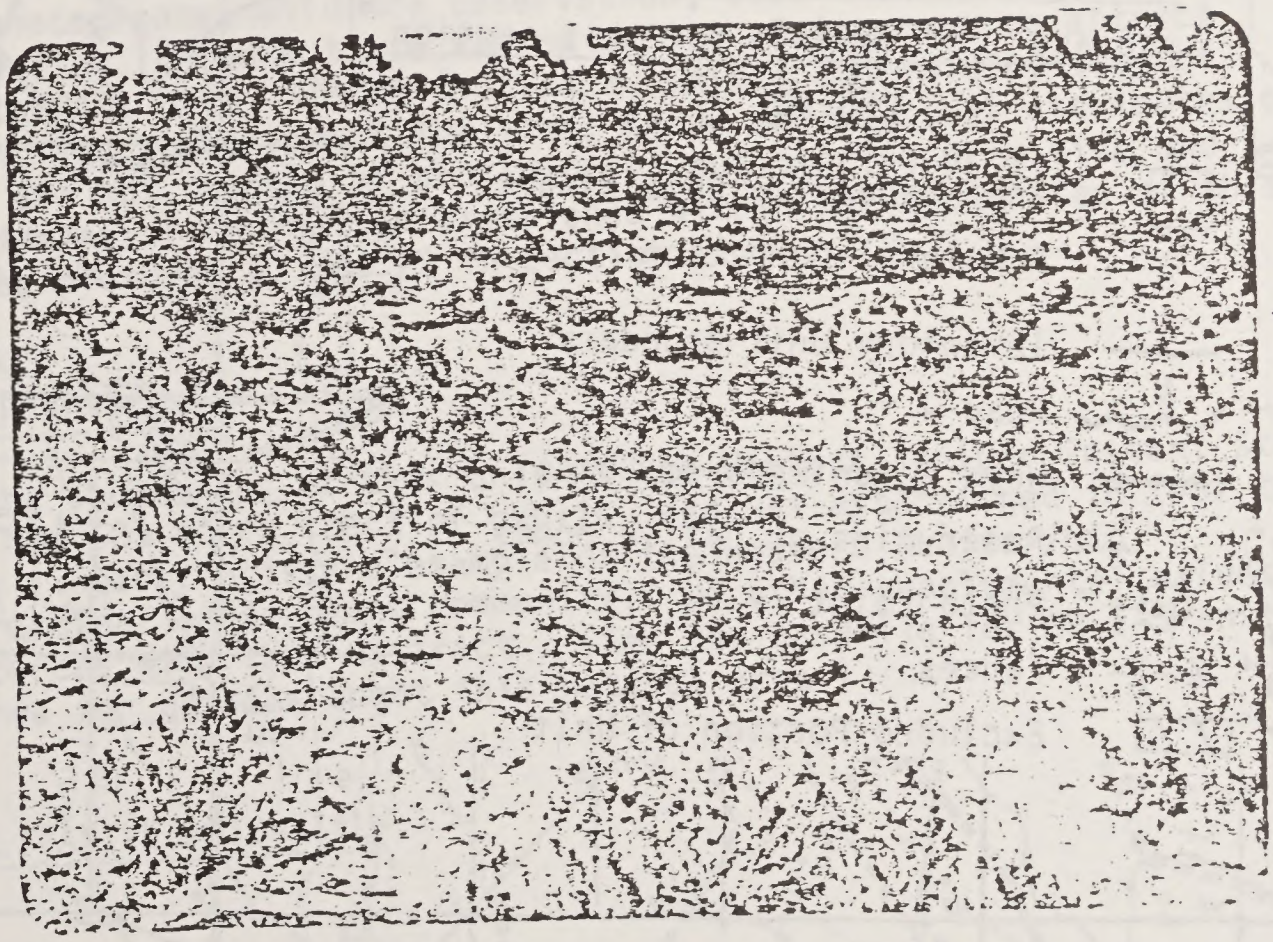
Picture #8 (looking N. East)

An abandoned junked car was found along the mid northern boundary of this unit.



icture #9 (looking N. West)

iis way is located within the Horse idge Natural Area, encompassed by iit 5-5. This way is rapidly everting back to a natural appearing ondition through the forces of ature. The fence enclosing this 600 re natural area and this way is one eason why this way is reverting back a natural appearing condition at a latively rapid pace.



Section III - Naturalness

Location of picture photopoints and manmade improvements for this section

-LEGEND-

- Area Generally Remaining in A Natural Condition
- Inventory Unit Boundary
- Road - " "
- Ways - (unimproved Roads)
- Reservoirs or cattle ponds
- Photo Point
- Fences
- Excluded Portion of Unit

OR-5-5 HORSE RIDGE

NEWBERRY CRATER QUAD M

IV. SOLITUDE

Opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding within this unit for several reasons. The small size and shape of this unit, combined with a limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening capabilities does not allow a visitor to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors within this same area. Picture #1 in section II illustrates the shallow, open faced slopes of this unit, and its relatively small size. Research studies within the fenced 600 acre natural area located in the mid portion of this unit could potentially intrude upon anyone attempting to experience solitude in an outstanding manner. Although State Highway 20 is located just north of this unit, the District Wilderness Specialist hiked along the northern flank of this unit, and failed to find any area that offered freedom away from the sounds of large trucks slowly moving up the Horse Ridge Summit Grade. This fact was an additional (although not a valid reason according to the Wilderness Inventory Handbook) reason why outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit. The Millican Valley ORV area is just south of thsi unit, also.

V. RECREATION

There are several primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities available within this unit. Hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, wildlife observation, etc. None of these activities are outstanding, because there are no points of interest to attract visitors to this unit. There is also a limited amount diversity of vegetation, and topography. The size, shape and physical attributes of this unit are not capable of providing an outstanding primitive and unconfined type of recreation experience within the boundaries of this unit. (See pictures #1 and #2 in Section II.)

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Within the boundaries of this unit is the Western Juniper Instant Study Area. This 600 acres tract of public land was established in 1967 to preserve a nearly pristene example of the western juniper/big sage/threadleaf sedge plant community. No other supplemental values have been recorded with this district. (See the casefile for OR-5-5 Instant Study Area for details about this natural area.)

VII. REHABILITATIVE POTENTIAL

N/A

Horse Ridge Photo Index

Section	Picture #	Roll #	Feature	Direction Taken	Da
II	1	5-5-1	Topo & veg of Horse Ridge	S.-S.W.	10/5
	2	5-5-2	S.W. portion of Horse Ridge	West-N.West	"
	3	5-5-1	Western portion of Horse Ridge	West	"
	4	5-5-1	Basalt outcroppings	"	"
	5	5-5-0	N.W. portion of Horse Ridge	S.East	"
	6	5-5-3	Bajada in N.W. portion of unit	"	"
III	1	5-5-3	Old State Highway 20	East	10/5
	2	5-5-0	Old State Hwy 20 and utility line	South	"
	3	5-5-1	Way, fence, and utility line	South	"
	4	5-5-1	Way by Horse Ridge Natural Area	North	"
	5	"	Ways in S.E. portion of unit	North	"
	6	"	Way in E. portion of unit	West	"
	7	5-5-0	Way in northern portion of unit	North	"
	8	"	Junk car along N. boundary of unit	N.E.	"
	9	5-5-1	Way in Horse Ridge Natural Area	N.West	"

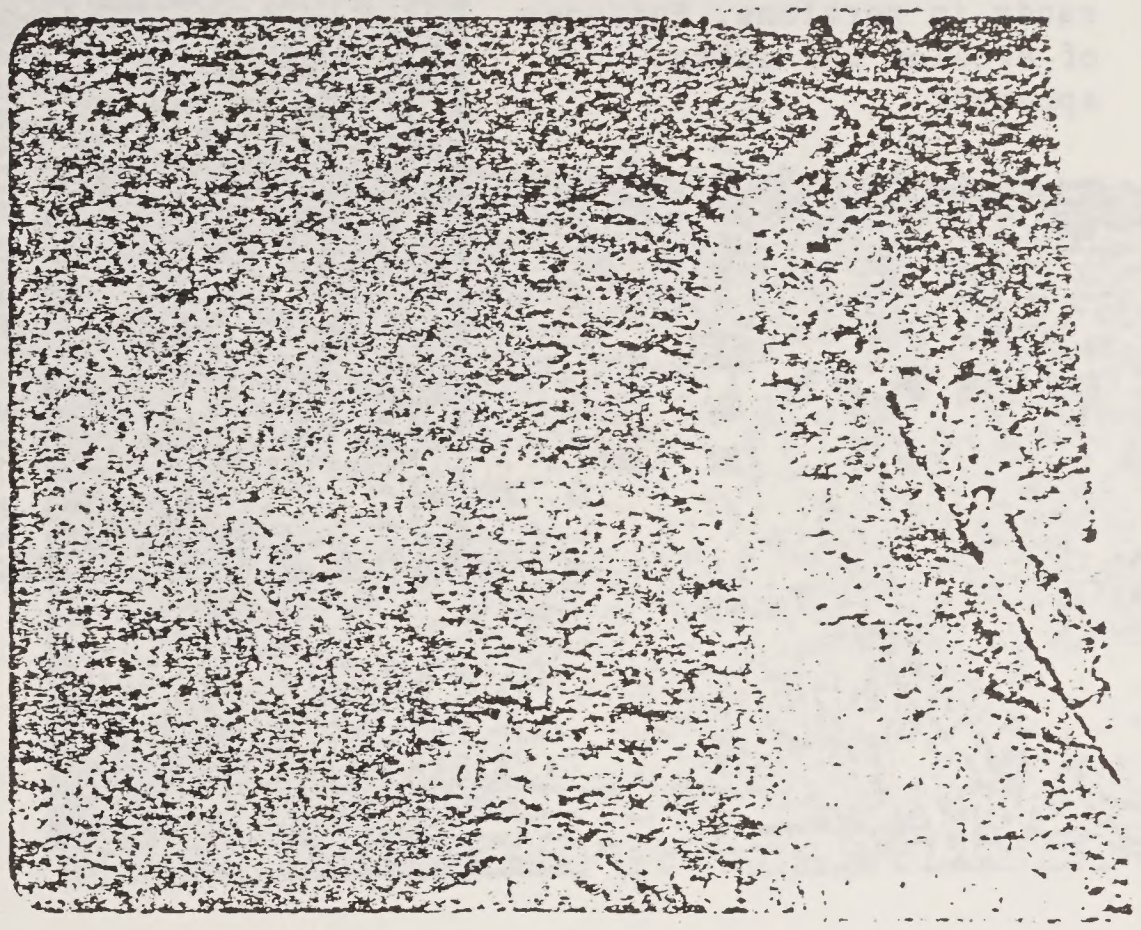
(Unit 5-5)

Appendix - A

During the intensive inventory of this unit, a large portion of the southern boundary, and a portion of the northwestern boundary, were found to be ways.

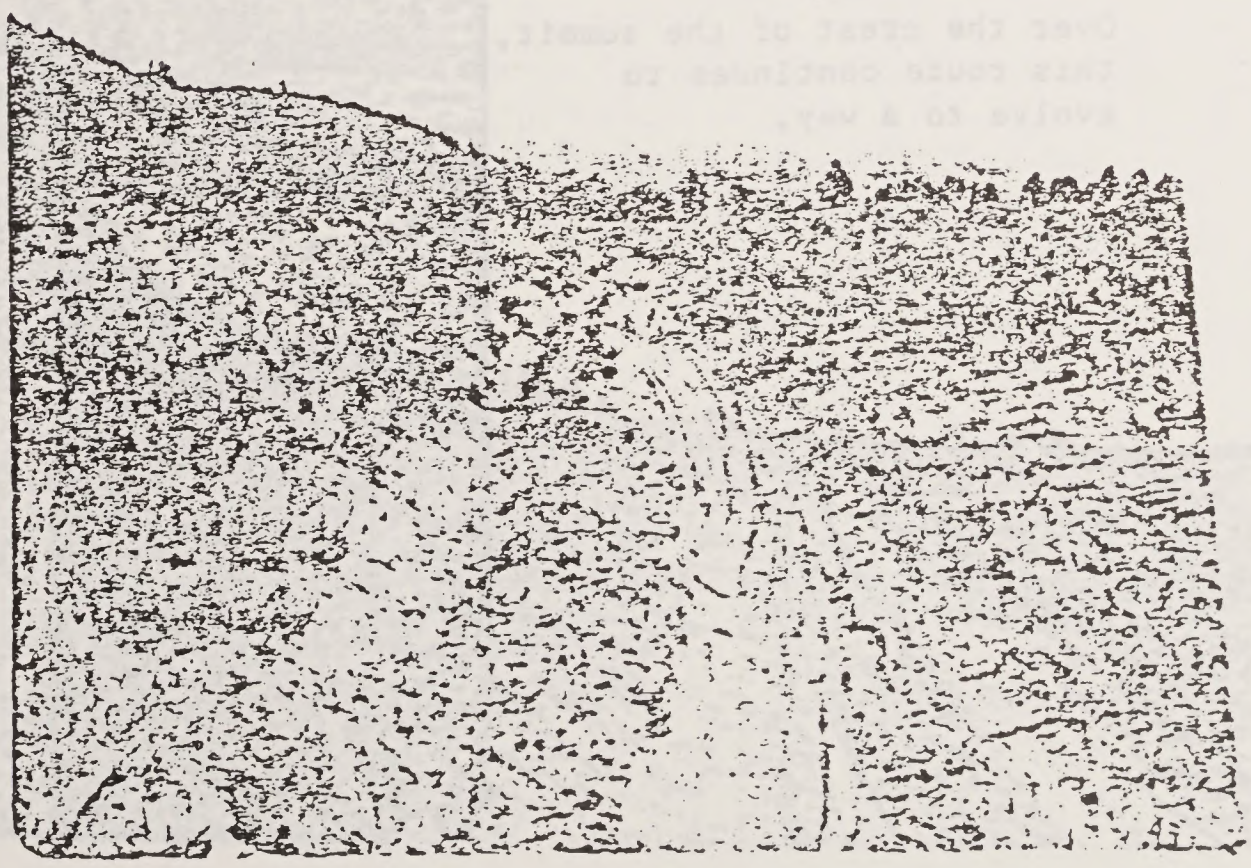
Picture #1 (looking West - N.West)

Evidence that no maintenance has occurred for an unde termined period of time.



Picture #2 (looking east)

Road has evolved into a way.

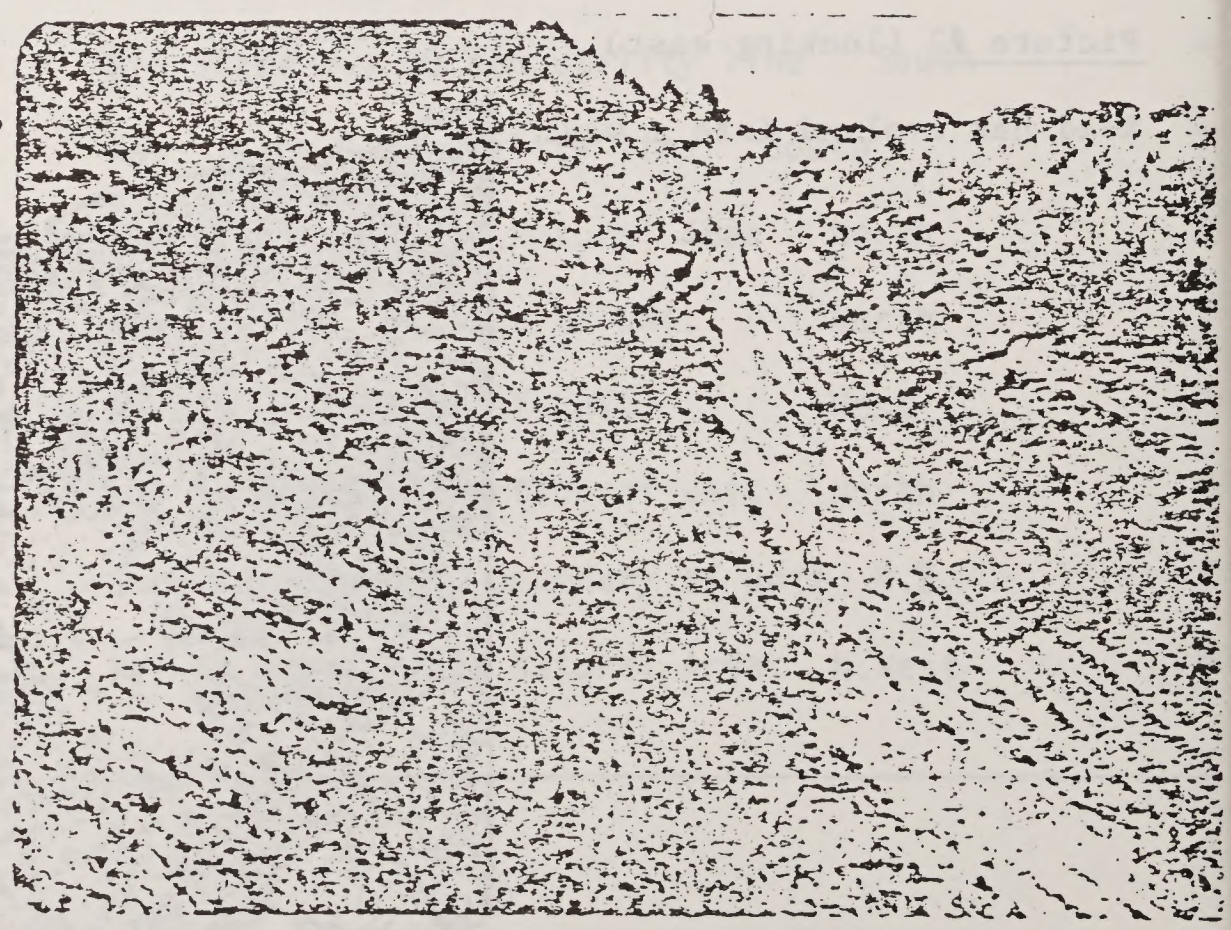


Picture #3 (looking N.West)

Four-wheel drive was needed to go up this route- very sandy in portions. Evidence of erosion was quite apparent.

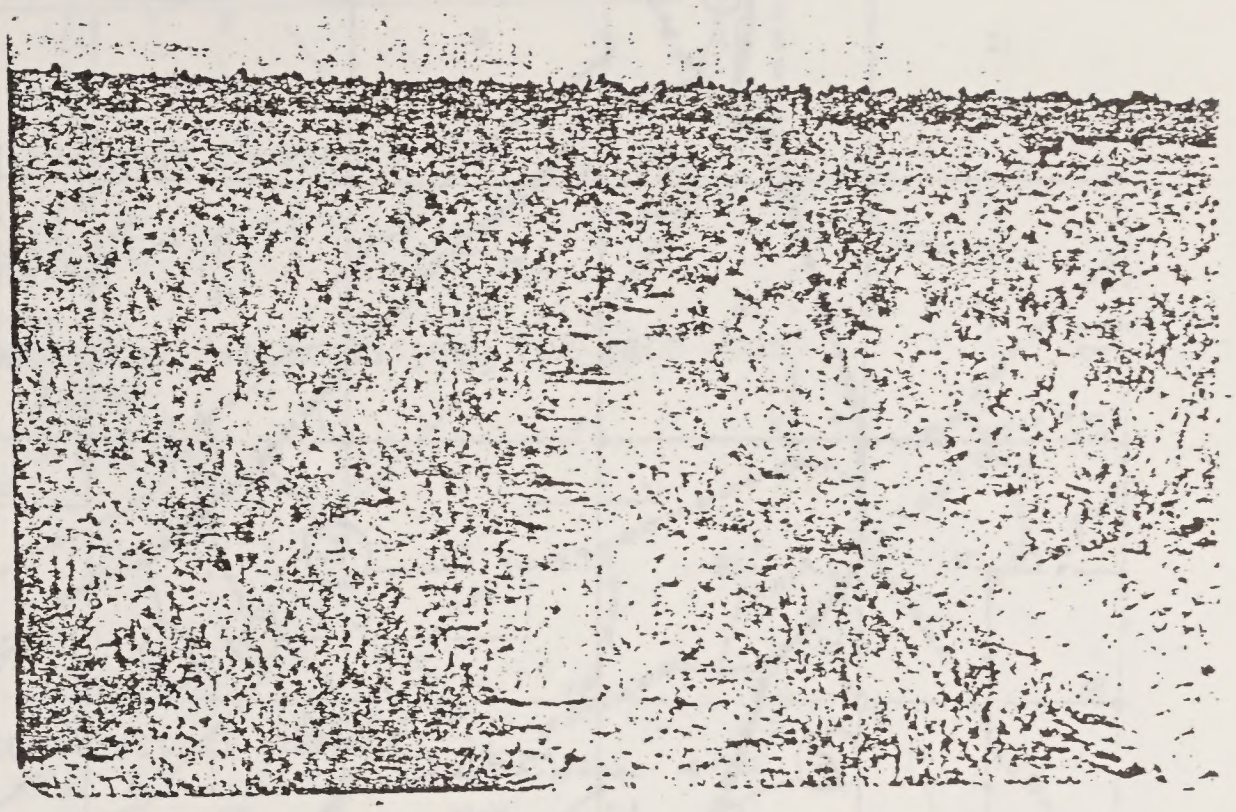
Picture #4 (looking N. East)

Over the crest of the summit, this route continues to evolve to a way.



Picture #5 (looking N.West)

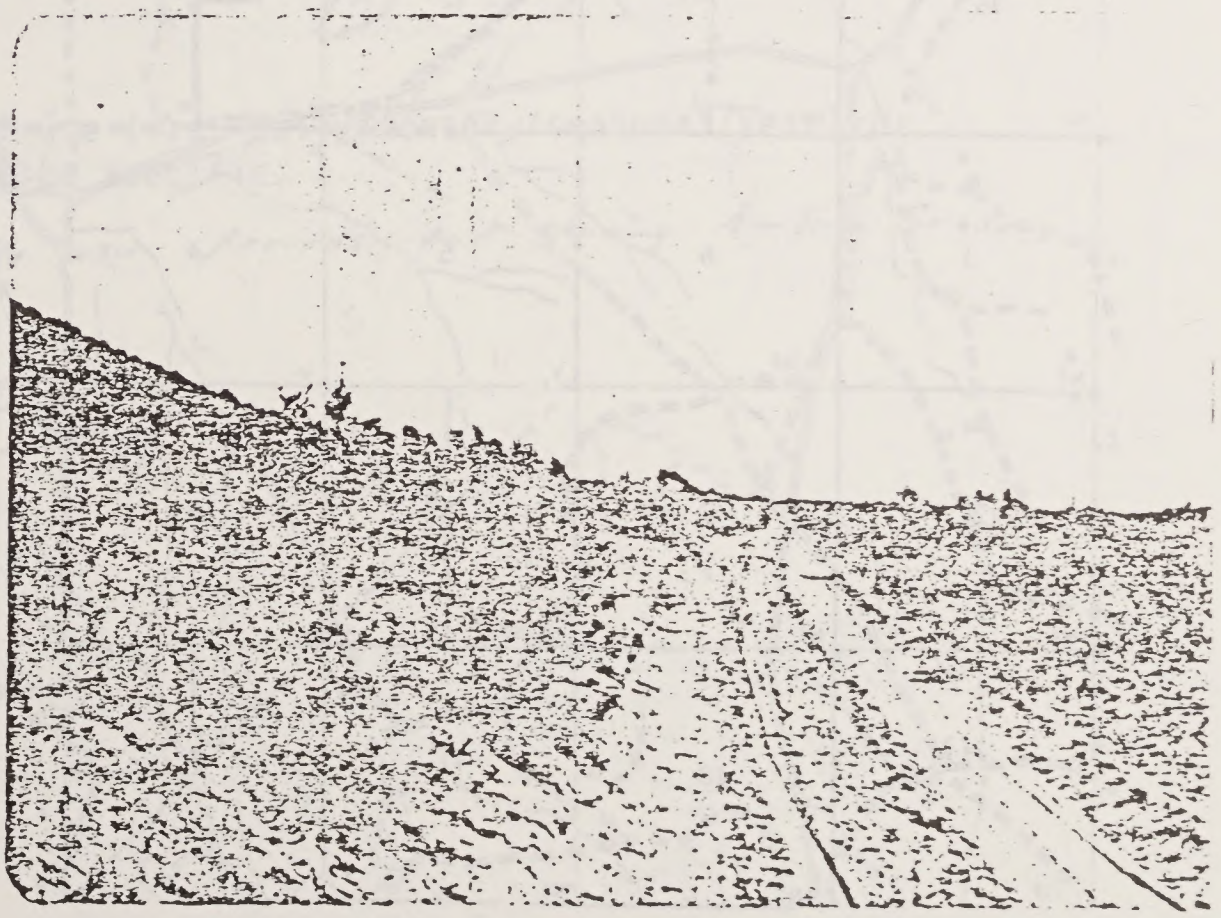
Portion of the northwest boundary that has evolved to a way. Height, and abundance of vegetation in center of route indicates lack of relatively regular use, and also maintenance.



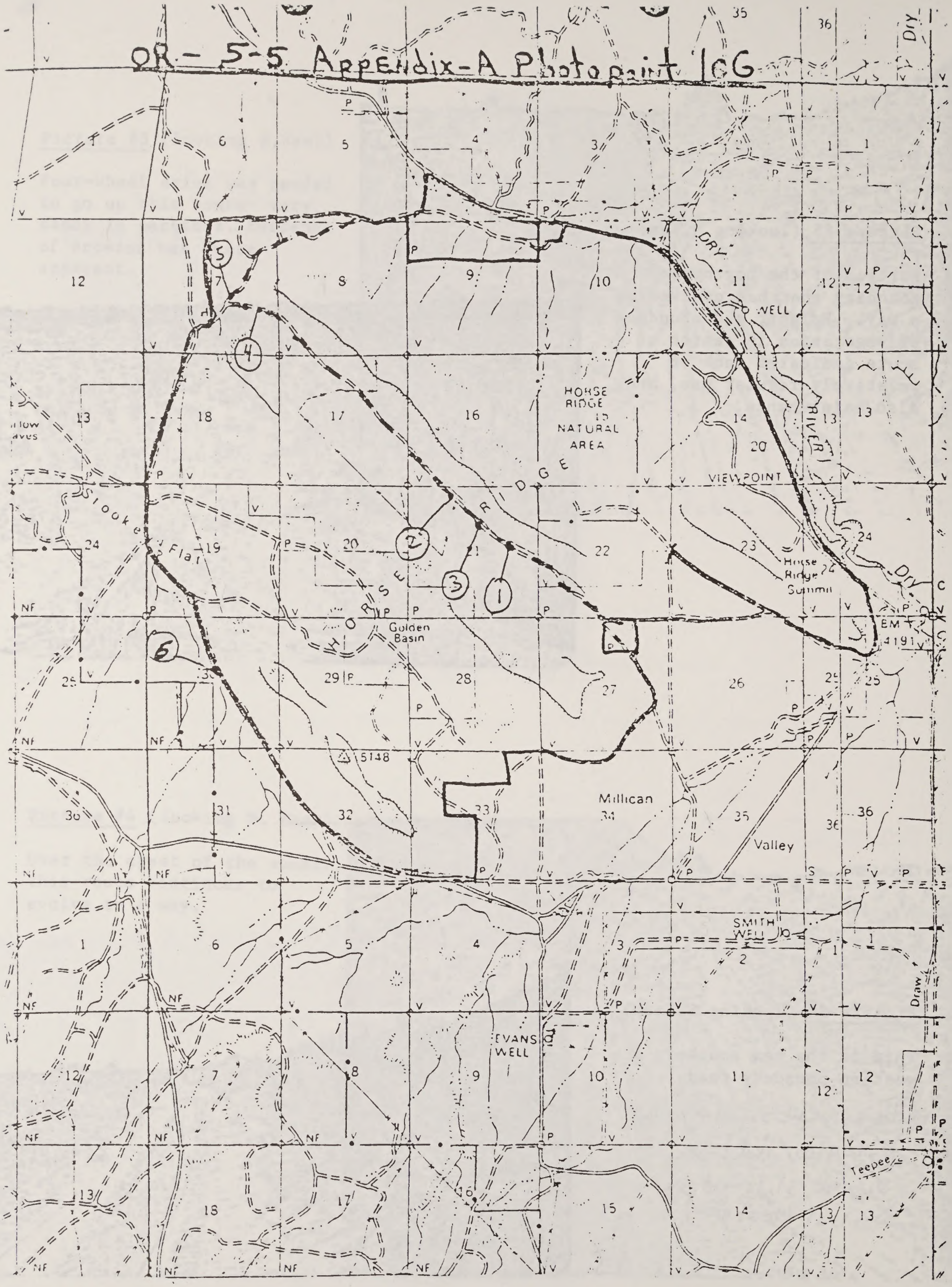
Picture #6 (looking S.East)

This is the new southern & western boundary road.

(This New boundary was Not Approved. See Signed statement by District Manager).



OR-5-5 Appendix-A Photopoint 16G



INFORMATION CONCERNING ROAD(s) THAT ARE ON THE DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PLAN, AND QUALIFY AS A ROAD(s) ACCORDING TO THE ROAD CRITERIA FOUND WITHIN THE WILDERNESS INVENTORY HANDBOOK

1) Name and number of Wilderness Inventory Unit.

Horse Ridge (5-5)

1.5) Name of road or alphabetical letter asigned for each road discussed:

(A) (Map in Back)

2) When was this road constructed? How?

Constructed during the homesteading of million area

3) What is this road used for?

Hunting, Recreation and livestock management (waterhaul)

4) Indicate frequency of use (i.e. daily/monthly/seasonal/yearly/ only as need) Please be specific.

daily during cattle use periods, and during hunting Season.

5) What type of maintenance is used to keep road open? (include dates, and if maintenance was conducted using hand tools or power machinery).

hand tools

6) If this road happened to wash out, would maintenance be performed so it could be regularly used once again?

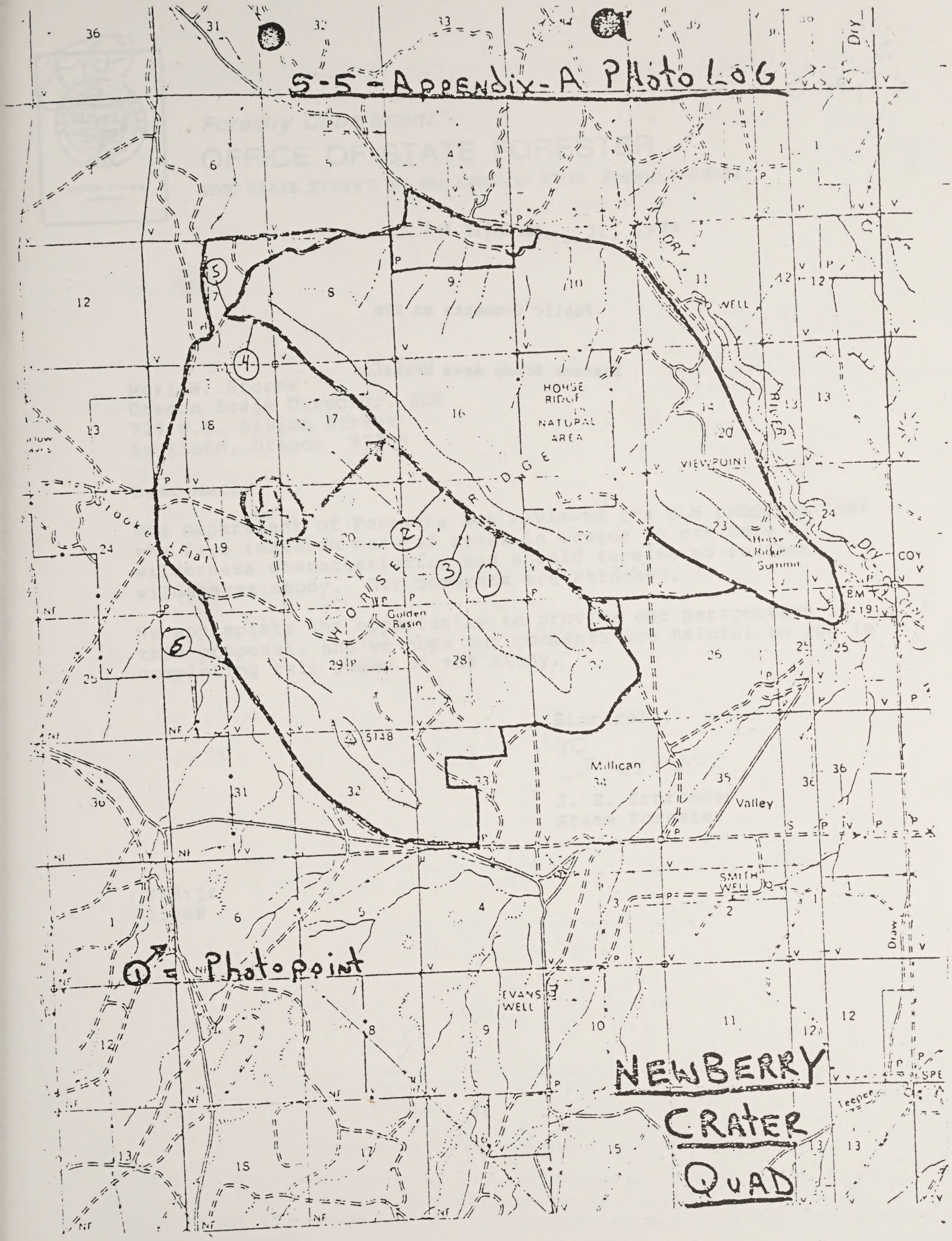
Yes No (Circle one)

I feel that the above information meets the road criteria found within the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Area Manager Maurice Zeigler Date 12-13-79

District Manager Paul W. Arrasmith Date 12/20/79

S-5 - Appendix-A Photo Log



APPENDIX B-1

Public Comments on the

Instant Study Area Decision

C
O-4-26

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Forestry Department

OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER

2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

May 21, 1979

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research natural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To Be Excluded From Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

As noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, there are established management methods for conserving the unique features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and management of natural areas is more restrictive than that which would be applied under wilderness designation. These generally small areas should be managed to protect their unique natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to maintain an area's unique natural feature should be returned to the normal land use planning process. It appears that the Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this category.

DD:jr
1506B

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

O-A-37 A, B

Intergovernmental Relations Division
Room 306, State Library Building
Salem, Oregon 97310, Phone: 378-3732

STATE A-95 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: ~~U.S. Forest Service~~ Bureau of Land Management

PROJECT TITLE: ~~Lost Forest Western Juniper, Little~~ Sink, Brewer Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study"

DATE: June 12, 1979

The state has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

[X] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified ~~and your proposal is endorsed as presented.~~

[X] Relevant comments of state agencies are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.

[ ] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of the state agency(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

[ ] Significant conflicts with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and the final comments and recommendations of the state are attached.

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY

The following is the officially assigned State Identifier Number:

7904 5 1330

This number should be used on all correspondence and particularly on SF 424 as required by OMB A-98.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency as required by OMB A-95. Comments of the appropriate local reviewing agencies will be submitted to you separately and must also be included.

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

O-A-37-A

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees that the five "Instant Wilderness Study Areas" administered by BLM in Oregon do not have Wilderness characteristics. However, these research natural areas contain unique flora and fauna characteristics and should be preserved.

Agency Fish & Wildlife By Jerry MacLeod

05/29/79 Environmental Management Sect

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

O-A-37-B

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

We concur that the 5 areas noted are not suitable for wilderness designation.

Agency [illegible] By [signature]

O-A-48

COOS-CURRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

P. O. BOX 647
NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459

SANDRA DIEDRICH
DIRECTOR
PHONE 756-2563

ROBERT PIERCE, Chairman
BILL TANKERSLEY, Vice-Chairman
C. W. HECKARD, Treasurer

June 22, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Or. 97208

Attention: State Director

Re: Proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the regional clearinghouse procedures as specified in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, as revised, the Coos-Curry Council of Governments on June 14, 1979, reviewed the BLM proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation.

In reviewing the proposed project, the Council noted BLM's rationale was that four of the five research natural areas are much smaller than 5,000 acres and the fifth area is covered with roads while Wilderness areas are supposed to be 5,000 acres in size and virtually free of roads. The Council further noted the Cherry Creek Resource Natural Area is recommended for non-inclusion in the wilderness designation and that the Western Juniper and Lost Forest Resource Natural Areas will be considered in conjunction with their surroundings to determine if the overall area has wilderness characteristics. The Council unanimously approved a favorable review of this proposal.

Should you have any questions regarding this action by the Council, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sandra Diedrich
Director

SD/tam
cc: State Clearinghouse

MEMBER AGENCIES

COOS COUNTY	PORT ORFORD	COOS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRY COUNTY	POWERS	COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BANDON	PORT OF BANDON	BANDON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BROOKINGS	PORT OF COOS BAY	BROOKINGS-HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
COOS BAY	PORT OF BROOKINGS	GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
COQUILLE	PORT OF PORT ORFORD	GOLD BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT 3C
EASTSIDE	PORT OF GOLD BEACH	MYRTLE POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOLD BEACH	COOS BAY NORTH BEND WATER BOARD	SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
1201 COURT STREET N.E.
P.O. BOX 12729
SALEM, OREGON 97309
(503) 585-8351

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES
P. JERRY ORRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

16 May 1979

The Association of Oregon Counties 1201 Court St., NE, Salem, Oregon, P. O. Box 12729, 97309, supports the position of the Bureau of Land Management regarding five Research Natural Areas on BLM land in Oregon.

The AOC represents all 36 Oregon counties and the 117 elected county Commissioners and County Judges' who comprise the governing bodies of the counties in Oregon. The organization has been in existence for 74 years, with permanent headquarters and a full-time staff in Salem since 1959.

The BLM is in posession of a formal Resolution from the Lake County Commission regardingthe Lost Forest Research Natural Area. While we concur with your decision on the Lost Forest, we feel your further study will also determine that it does not qualify for wilderness designation, even though it will be studied in connection with decisions relative to larger study areas surrounding it.

The Western Juniper Instant Study Area, also a Research Natural Area, is part of a larger area for wilderness study and review. We concur, but also feel your further study in this instance will determine again that it is not suitable for wilderness designation.

AOC feels the special management provided for the Research Natural Areas is designed to provide adequate protection for their unique characteristics and designation as wilderness would not only interfere with this management but would in no way add to the values that called for the special designation in the first place.

With Little Sink, Brewer-Spruce, and Douglas-fir (Cherry Creek), we likewise concur with the BLM finding that the areas do not qualify for designation as wilderness.

I am personally familiar with three of the areas, Lost Forest, Western Juniper and Little Sink, and recognize their unique values and the need for special management and protection, but not for their designation as wilderness.

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER • 1201 COURT STREET N.E.
P.O. BOX 12729 / SALEM, OREGON 97309 / (503) 585-8351

KESS CANNON
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

8-B-3 ~~OR~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW
SHEET

NAME : Merrill Willard
ADDRESS : 1201 E. 28th Albany, Or. 9738

INTERVIEWER : (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG.) DATE : 5/16/7

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with The BLM Proposed Initial Inventory of Roadless Areas which Clearly Lack Wilderness Characteristics. I have been in most of These Identified areas and Have fou The past activities on These areas Clearly Evident.

✓ I agree with Proposed Instant Study area Recommendations.

8-B-4 ~~OR 08~~ ~~4/~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Wm J Doyle
ADDRESS : 1185 Airport Rd
Lebanon ORE. 97355

INTERVIEWER : (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG). DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the BLM's Proposed Initial Inventory, concerning Unit 8-2 thru Unit 8-8
Also Unit 9-1
The Booklet is dated April 1979

I Agree that the five Instant Study Areas should be dropped from further study as a wilderness Area.

8-8-5 ~~OR~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Bill Bentley
ADDRESS : 625 E. 38th
Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER : N.A - 5/16/79 mtg. DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree that units 8.2 through 9.1 m
The wilderness proposed initial inventory
Does not have wilderness characteristics
These units are in Salem + Eugene

I also agree that the five units in
the instant study area should be consi
to be non wilderness areas and to be
dropped from the instant study

8-B-6 ~~OR-08~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Stone
ADDRESS : 3855 Dunlap NE.
Albany, OR 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG) DATE: 5-16-79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the opinions expressed in the BLM Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory Booklet published April 1979 concerning study areas which lack wilderness characteristics. The areas designated in the booklet are too public and would never give the seeker what he's looking for in terms of solitude & land untouched by man. I have been in most of the areas 8-2, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 + 9-1. They have never appealed to me as being wilderness oriented.

I also agree with the recommendation to drop the 5 instant study areas from BLM's wilderness program. I have been to 4 of the 5 study areas & none of them have impressed me as having wilderness potential.

8-B-7

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Taylor
ADDRESS : 410 SE. 14 Albany, Ore. 97321

INTERVIEWER : (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG.) DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with Wilderness proposed initial inventory printed April 1979 that they donot have wilderness characteristics, I also think the five areas Lost Forest, Western Jumper, Little Sink, Brewer Spruce + Douglas fir that they donot show wilderness characteristics, I have visited most of the above locations & traveled on roads in these areas, roads that people had homes on, and I think these roads will be there for a long time to come. If areas are considered wilderness areas how will people be able to get to these areas to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness?

APPENDIX B-2

Public Comments on the

Inventory Unit Decision

JUN 1980
RECEIVED
Bureau of
Land Management
Prineville, Ore.

TELEX 45-556

AMAX EXPLORATION, INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF AMAX INC.
4704 HARLAN STREET • DENVER, COLORADO 80212 • (303) 433-6151

June 19, 1980

Mr. Paul Arrasmith
District Manager
Prineville BLM District
185 East 4th Street
P. O. Box 550
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Dear Mr. Arrasmith:

We have reviewed your recommendations for wilderness study areas as a result of the Intensive Inventory and support your decision to eliminate the following areas from further wilderness review. We agree that these units have noticeable imprints of man and do not afford outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation:

5-5 (Horse Ridge); 5-6 (Lower John Day [2,575 acres]); 5-8 (North Pole Ridge [6,120 acres]); 5-9 (Spring Basin [301 acres]); 5-10 (Mount Misery); 5-11 (Fossil Beds); 5-18 (Rocky Canyon); 5-19 (Chimney Rock); 5-20 (Alkali Flat); 5-21 (Bad Lands [1,119 acres]); 5-22 (Dry River); 5-23 (West Butte); 5-31 (North Fork [379 acres]); 5-33 (South Fork [29 acres]); 5-34 (Sand Hollow [29 acres]); 5-35 (Gerry Mountain [1,137 acres]); 5-36 (Redman Rim); 5-40 (Sears Creek); 5-42 (Hampton Butte); 5-42A (120 acres); 5-43 (Cougar Well [289 acres]); 5-46 (Hampton); 5-47 (Stockpile); 5-49 (Hemstad); 5-50 (Whiskey Springs); 5-51 (Twin Pines); 5-52 (Dickerson Well); 5-53 (Two Post Lake); 5-55 (Lone Pine); 5-56 (Fredrick Butte); 5-59 (Grassy Lake); 5-63 (Stud Horse Butte); 5-64 (Glass Butte); 5-65 (Round Mountain); 5-68 (Steamboat Island); 5-69 (Eagle Butte Island); 5-76 (Kimberly Island); 6-82 (Nomanisa Island); 5-83 (Fantasy Island);

Thank for this opportunity to participate in the BLM wilderness review process.

Very truly yours,

Joyce L. Emerson
Manager of Government Relations

JLE/da

Card Sent

O-B-224
(Same As 5-B-9)

BLM INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY
OREGON
COMMENT SHEET

Name Stuart Garrett
Address 361 NE Franklin
Bend Ore 97701
Affiliation

Inventory Unit No. 5-5
(Area on which you are commenting)
District Burnsville
Date 3/31/80

A. Roads. For purposes of the wilderness inventory, a route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use is considered a road. A route (or "way") maintained solely by the passage of vehicles is not considered a road. (See Appendix A in the report on the proposed decision for a more detailed definition of roads.)

If you do not agree with our identification of roads in this unit, where should roads be added to or deleted from the map? What kinds of improvement, maintenance and use have these routes received? If possible, show the route locations on a map. A large-scale map of this unit may be obtained from the district office which administers the unit and from the State Office in Portland.

OK

B. Wilderness Characteristics. An inventory unit will be designated a wilderness study area if it has wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values."

DO YOU THINK THIS UNIT HAS WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS? yes

1. Natural Conditions. Are the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable What man-made features are you aware of in the inventory unit?

"only ways"

2. Solitude. Does the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude? Why or why not?

yes it does, the Southern side is peaceful + quiet

3. Recreation. Does the unit provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation? Which types? Why or why not?

hiking, binding are excellent, off road vehicles + bikes should be kept out!

[If you need more space, use reverse or another sheet.]

WILDERNESS REPORT

Douglas-Fir (Cherry Creek) Research Natural Area

Oregon

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

February 1980

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The Douglas-Fir (Cherry Creek) Research Natural Area is a 590 acre tract of land in Coos County, Oregon. It is part of approximately 1,540 contiguous acres of roadless public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. All but 50 acres of the roadless lands contiguous to the Research Natural Area are exempt from wilderness review because they are revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands being managed for commercial timber production. A total of 640 acres of roadless public land was reviewed for wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Instant Study Area Recommendation

The Douglas-Fir (Cherry Creek) Research Natural Area and contiguous, roadless public lands which are subject to review for wilderness characteristics are recommended as unsuitable for wilderness. No changes are proposed for the future management of the area.

The area does not meet any of the size requirements for wilderness areas. The imprints of human activities are substantially unnoticeable, except in an area of approximately 10 acres of contiguous land developed as a day use recreational area. However, because of its small size and steeply dissected topography the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

This recommendation will not cause economic or social impacts.

The short-term and long-term effects of this recommendation would be to remove the area from the constraints of the interim management policy guidelines imposed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The previously designated 590 acres would be maintained in their existing condition under continuing management as a research natural area. The 50 contiguous acres would be managed for multiple use according to current BLM guidelines and procedures.

The study has not identified any options that would be foregone if this recommendation is adopted.

Paul M. Dawgan
District Manager, Coos Bay

FEB 22 1980
Date

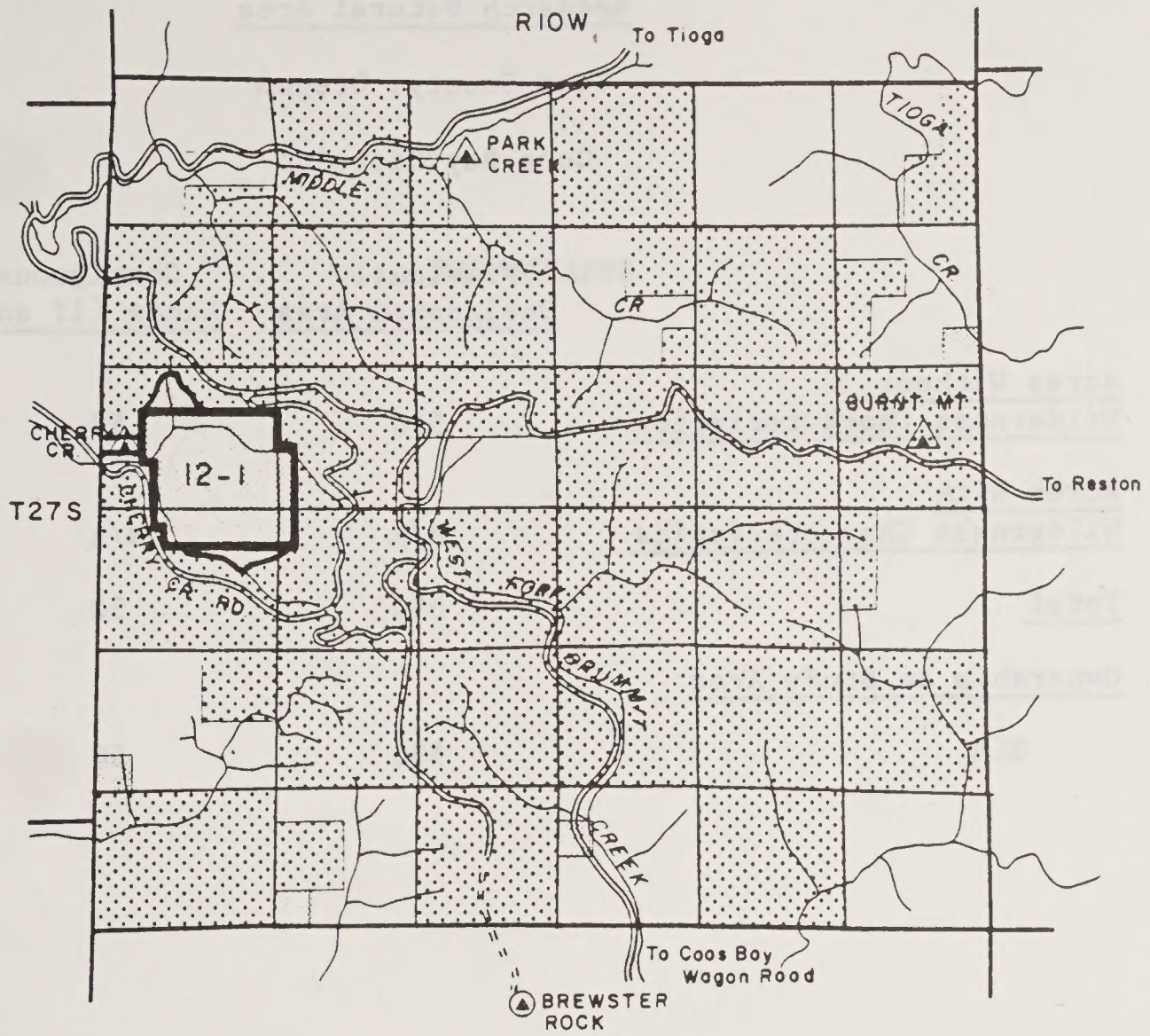
E. J. Petersen
ACTING State Director, Oregon

FEB 29 1980
Date

/s/ Frank Gregg
Director, Bureau of Land Management

June 27, 1980
Date

WILDERNESS REVIEW
DOUGLAS-FIR INSTANT STUDY AREA



LEGEND

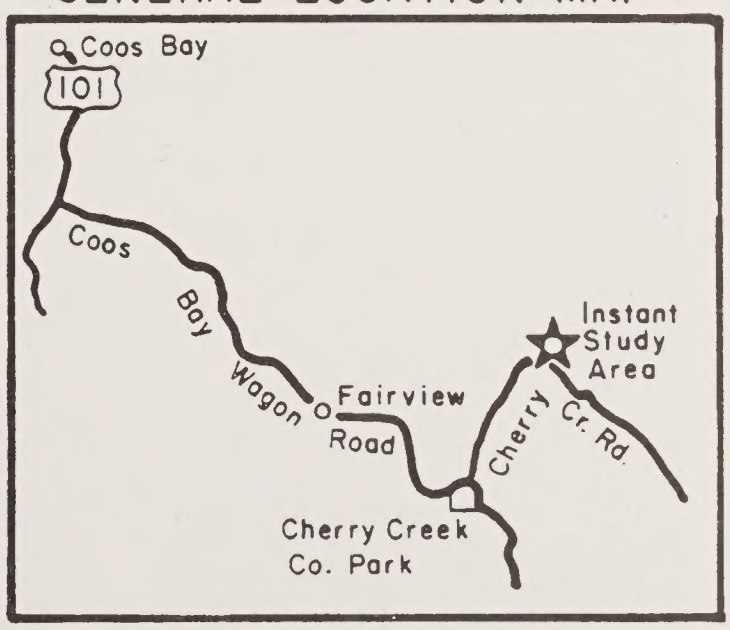
BOUNDARY OF ISA

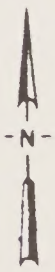
BLM INVENTORY UNIT 1-14

ELIMINATED BLM LAND

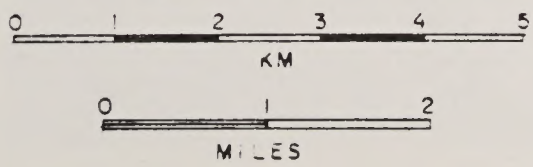
EXEMPT BLM LAND

GENERAL LOCATION MAP





SCALE 1:100000



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

DECEMBER 1979

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Douglas-Fir (Cherry Creek)

Research Natural Area

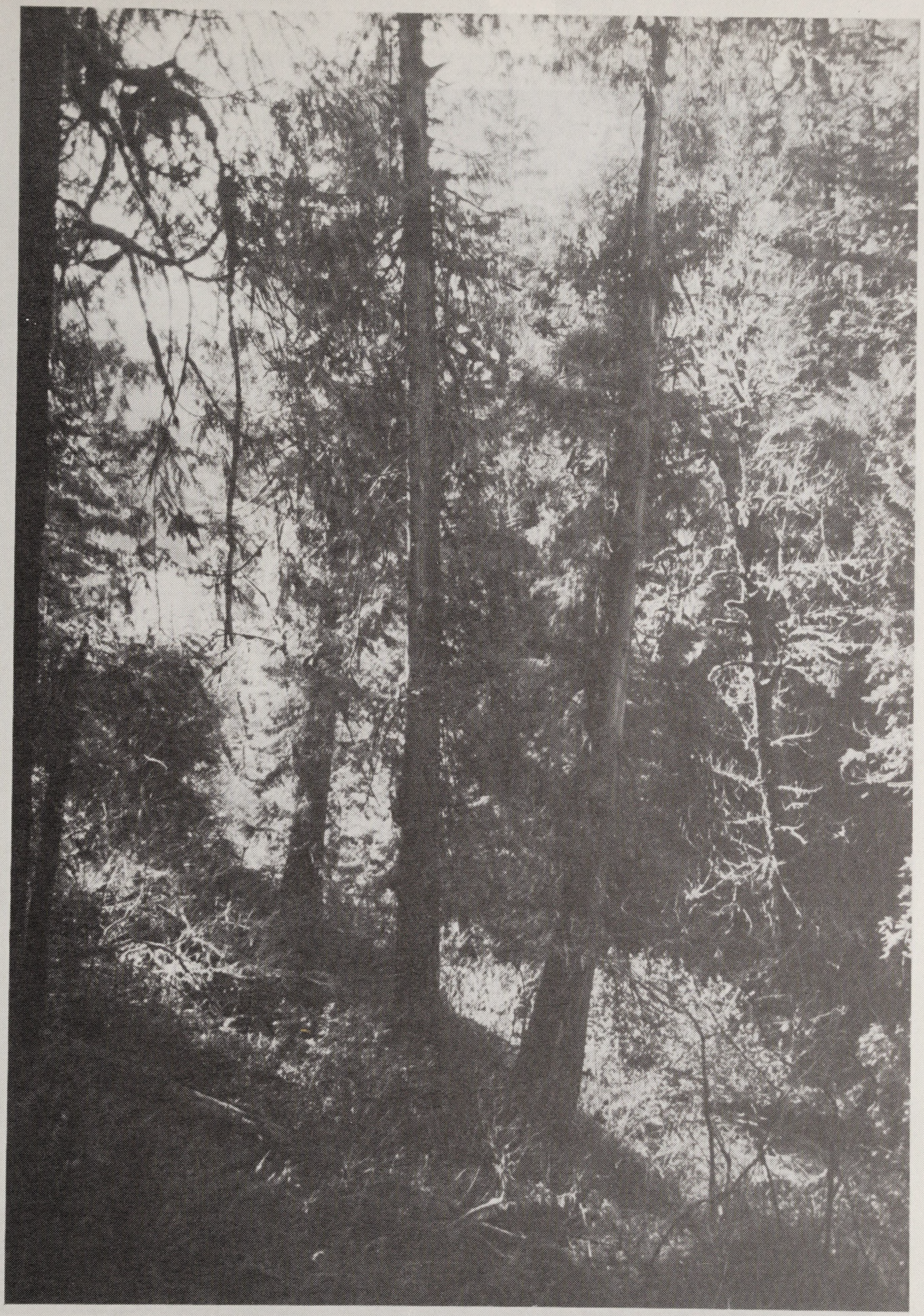
Coos County, Oregon

Coos Bay District

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if any)	Total
Acres Without Wilderness Characteristics	590	50	640
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics	N/A	N/A	
Total	590	50	640
Ownership in Study Area			
BLM	590	50	640

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1 -- Douglas-Fir Research Natural Area,
along the North Fork of Cherry Creek.



Photograph No. 2 - Douglas-Fir Research Natural Area, showing steep terrain and western red cedar.

Photograph No. 3 - Looking west across a recent clearcut to the eastern boundary of the Douglas-Fir Research Natural area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Douglas-Fir (Cherry Creek) Research Natural Area was established on February 4, 1965. The area contains stands of virgin, old-growth Douglas-fir and western hemlock as they have developed on the sedimentary materials of the Coast Range in southwestern Oregon. It is an excellent site for the study of old-growth coniferous forests of a type which was once widespread in the Coast Range of Oregon. In addition, the understory vegetation is affected by heavy use of the area by Roosevelt elk. This situation provides an opportunity for study of the influence of browsing and trampling by elk on the structure and composition of the vegetative communities. No other significant resource values have been identified in the area.

The initial finding that this area does not have wilderness characteristics was announced on April 26, 2979. A 60-day period for public review and comment was announced on the same date. Public meetings were held at several locations, including Coos Bay, Salem, and Portland, to discuss the finding and to receive comments.

Ten comments were received from individuals, organizations, or agencies. All of the comments either directly or indirectly supported the initial finding. There were no public comments recommending that the area be further reviewed as a potential wilderness area. Two of the comments specifically mentioned that the resources in the area should be preserved, and that the RNA designation is more appropriate than wilderness status would be. Copies of all public comments submitted regarding this area are included in the Permanent Documentation File at the Coos Bay District Office, and are provided in Appendix B of this report.

The State Director's final determination that the Douglas-Fir Instant Study Area and contiguous public land subject to wilderness review do not have wilderness characteristics was announced on August 29, 1979.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Intensive Inventory

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No.: OR-12-1

Area name: Cherry Creek (Douglas-fir) Instant Study Area

District: Coos Bay State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. The area appears to be natural.
2. The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type recreation.
3. The area does not meet any of the size requirements.
4. The area has supplemental values.

B. Resulting map
Attached map shows inventory unit, roads, contiguous recreation area with possibility of returning to a natural state, and TPCC (Timber Production Capability Classification) withdrawal areas eligible for inclusion in wilderness.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: Paul M. Dauger

Date: 2-16-79

B. State Director: _____

Date: _____

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. OR-12-1

Cherry Creek
(Douglas-fir) Instant Study Area

1. SIZE

The Cherry Creek (Douglas-fir) Research Natural Area is only approximately 590 acres in size. Contiguous to this area are approximately 950 acres of BLM administered roadless O&C lands making the maximum size of any roadless area only 1,540 acres. However, approximately 500 acres of this 950 acres have been clear cut since 1964 and presumably could not qualify as wilderness. Much of the remaining approximate 450 acres of this 950 acres is managed as commercial timberland and O&C lands managed as commercial land are exempt from wilderness consideration. Only approximately 40 acres withdrawn by TPCC (Timber Production Capability Classification) from the allowable cut base and 10 acres withdrawn as a day-use recreation site, both contiguous to the Research Natural Area, would be eligible for inclusion in a wilderness study area, making the maximum size of a potential wilderness study area only 640 acres.

SUMMARY:

The area does not have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and it is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an umimpaired condition.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 16th February 1979

2. NATURALNESS

The Cherry Creek (Douglas-fir) Research Natural Area was established to preserve natural values for scientific study. It is a virgin stand of old growth Douglas-fir that is representative of stands once found throughout the Oregon Coast Range. Within the research natural area there are no known works of man and due to dense nature of the forest and understory, one cannot see adjoining clear cuts from within the natural area.

SUMMARY:

The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SIGNATURE: Andrew Wendel DATE: 16th February 1979

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Due to the dense nature of the forest and understory it would be possible for someone to easily experience solitude within the Cherry Creek (Douglas-fir) Research Natural Area. However, this opportunity is not outstanding in that someone could similarly experience solitude in many other forest stands in the Oregon Coast Range due to the dense nature of the forest and understory typical of this region.

SUMMARY:

This area does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

SIGNATURE: Andrew J. Smith DATE: 16th February 1979

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Cross country travel through the area is difficult due to the precipitous slopes and dense understory. The area receives limited big game hunting and nature study on the fringes but these recreational pursuits also occur in many other forest stands in the Oregon Coast Range. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited and not outstanding compared to similar opportunities in other forest stands of the Oregon Coast Range.

SUMMARY:

This area does not have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 16 February 1979

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

The area was set up as a research nature area to preserve natural values for scientific study. As such it is representative of virgin old growth Douglas-fir stands. When all the remaining virgin old growth Douglas-fir on public lands is clear cut in perhaps twenty years, this area will represent a unique environment of scientific and educational value.

SUMMARY:

This area does contain ecological, geological, and other features of scientific, educational, scenic and historical value.

SIGNATURE: Andrew Wenthel DATE: 16th February 1979

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

The Cherry Creek (Douglas-fir) Research Natural Area itself is in a pristine state. The contiguous 10 acre day-use recreation site (Cherry Creek or Big Tree Recreation Area) has only been developed to a more or less primitive state with a few wood tables, trails, wood signs and pit toilets. If abondoned this day-use recreation site would be rapidly reclaimed by dense forest vegetation.

SUMMARY:

If this area were to become a wilderness area, the imprint of man's work could be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 16th February 1979

APPENDIX B

Public Comment Letters and Forms

8500

WESTERN FORESTRY and CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

(Since 1909)

. . . forest conservation through cooperative effort in Western North America

One Forest Under Two Flags

AMERICAN BANK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205
PHONE: (503) 226-4562

STEELE BARNETT
FOREST COUNSEL

President
Ernest B. Cornick

Vice Presidents
Grant Ainscough
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Roy Elmgren
Robert A. Hansen
Robert Helding
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Russell Hudson
Stanley Hulett
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Into Liimatta
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John McMahon
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W. Lee Robinson
James Rydelius
Ervin C. Scheider
John Thompson
E. L. Williams
Ted Young

Secretary
Howard Millan

Treasurer
E. L. Williams

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
Edna Keyes

Past President
John Callaghan

May 24, 1979

Director
Coos Bay District Office
Bureau of Land Management
333 South Fourth Street
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the recent request for comment on your decision not to recommend Wilderness classification for the Douglas-fir Research Natural Area.

The Western Forestry and Conservation Association has long supported the concept of research natural areas and the ability to control entry into them. We are also on record as supporting the need for wilderness and the inclusion of some lands in the Wilderness system. We do not however feel that the two uses - research natural areas and Wilderness - are necessarily compatible. While "Wilderness" does have many restrictions relative to its use it does imply ready access to any and all meeting the restrictions. Additionally "Wilderness" designation does tend to invite visitors into an area with the possible consequences of human disturbance of the ecosystem to be preserved. For these reasons we generally do not support the designation of research natural areas as wilderness.

The Douglas-fir RNA does not truly service the concept of a research natural area since it is not distinctively unique and is too small to provide solitude. These factors make it unsuitable for "Wilderness" classification. Therefore, we concur with your recommendation not to seek "Wilderness" status.

Very truly yours,

Steele Barnett

Steele Barnett
Forest Counsel

SB:k

70th Western Forestry Conference, SHERATON-SPOKANE, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4-7, 1979

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Forestry Department
OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER
2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

May 21, 1979

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research natural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To Be Excluded From Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

As noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, there are established management methods for conserving the unique features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and management of natural areas is more restrictive than that which would be applied under wilderness designation. These generally small areas should be managed to protect their unique natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to maintain an area's unique natural feature should be returned to the normal land use planning process. It appears that the Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this category.

DD:jr
1506B

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

C-A-37 A, B

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Intergovernmental Relations Division
Room 306, State Library Building
Salem, Oregon 97310, Phone: 378-3732

STATE A-95 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: U.S. Forest Service

PROJECT TITLE: Lost Forest Western Juniper, Little Sink, Brewer Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study"

DATE: June 12, 1979

The state has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

[X] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

[X] Relevant comments of state agencies are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.

[ ] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of the state agency(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

[ ] Significant conflicts with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and the final comments and recommendations of the state are attached.

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY

The following is the officially assigned State Identifier Number:

7904 2 1530

This number should be used on all correspondence and particularly on SF 424 as required by OMB A-98.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency as required by OMB A-95. Comments of the appropriate local reviewing agencies will be submitt to you separately and must also be included.

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

C A 21-A

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees that the five "Instant Wilderness Study Areas" administered by BLM in Oregon do not have Wilderness characteristics. However, these research natural areas contain unique flora and fauna characteristics and should be preserved.

Agency Fish & Wildlife By: Leon MacLeod
05/20/79 Environmental Management Section

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: ~~MAY 25 1979~~

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

We concur that the 5 areas noted are not suitable for wilderness designation.

Agency [illegible] By [signature]

O-D-43

COOS-CURRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

P. O. BOX 647
NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459

SANDRA DIEDRICH
DIRECTOR
PHONE 756-2563

ROBERT PIERCE, Chairman
BILL TANKERSLEY, Vice-Chairman
C W HECKARD, Treasurer

June 22, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Or. 97208

Attention: State Director

Re: Proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the regional clearinghouse procedures as specified in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, as revised, the Coos-Curry Council of Governments on June 14, 1979, reviewed the BLM proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation.

In reviewing the proposed project, the Council noted BLM's rationale was that four of the five research natural areas are much smaller than 5,000 acres and the fifth area is covered with roads while Wilderness areas are supposed to be 5,000 acres in size and virtually free of roads. The Council further noted the Cherry Creek Resource Natural Area is recommended for non-inclusion in the wilderness designation and that the Western Juniper and Lost Forest Resource Natural Areas will be considered in conjunction with their surroundings to determine if the overall area has wilderness characteristics. The Council unanimously approved a favorable review of this proposal.

Should you have any questions regarding this action by the Council, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sandra Diedrich
Director

SD/tam
cc: State Clearinghouse

MEMBER AGENCIES

COOS COUNTY
CURRY COUNTY
BANDON
BROOKINGS
COOS BAY
COQUILLE
EASTSIDE
GOLD BEACH
LAKESIDE
MYRTLE POINT
NORTH BEND
PORT ORFORD
POWERS
PORT OF BANDON
PORT OF COOS BAY
PORT OF BROOKINGS
PORT OF PORT ORFORD
PORT OF GOLD BEACH
COOS BAY-NORTH BEND WATER BOARD
LAKESIDE WATER DISTRICT
LOWER BAY WATER DISTRICT
COOS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BANDON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BROOKINGS-HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOLD BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT 3C
MYRTLE POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NORTH BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT
POWERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESIDENT • GEORGE CALVERT – JOSEPHINE COUNTY
FIRST VICE PRES • EARLE C. MISENER – UNION COUNTY
SECOND VICE PRES • STAN SKOKO – CLACKAMAS COUNTY
TREASURER • F. E. KNIGHT – TILLAMOOK COUNTY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
1201 COURT STREET N.E.
P.O. BOX 12729
SALEM, OREGON 97309
(503) 585-8351

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

P. JERRY ORRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RH

16 May 1979

The Association of Oregon Counties 1201 Court St., NE, Salem, Oregon, P. O. Box 12729, 97309, supports the position of the Bureau of Land Management regarding five Research Natural Areas on BLM land in Oregon.

The AOC represents all 36 Oregon counties and the 117 elected county Commissioners and County Judges' who comprise the governing bodies of the counties in Oregon. The organization has been in existence for 74 years, with permanent headquarters and a full-time staff in Salem since 1959.

The BLM is in posession of a formal Resolution from the Lake County Commission regardingthe Lost Forest Research Natural Area. While we concur with your decision on the Lost Forest, we feel your further study will also determine that it does not qualify for wilderness designation, even though it will be studied in connection with decisions relative to larger study areas surrounding it.

The Western Juniper Instant Study Area, also a Research Natural Area, is part of a larger area for wilderness study and review. We concur, but also feel your further study in this instance will determine again that it is not suitable for wilderness designation.

AOC feels the special management provided for the Research Natural Areas is designed to provide adequate protection for their unique characteristics and designation as wilderness would not only interfere with this management but would in no way add to the values that called for the special designation in the first place.

With Little Sink, Brewer-Spruce, and Douglas-fir (Cherry Creek), we likewise concur with the BLM finding that the areas do not qualify for designation as wilderness.

I am personally familiar with three of the areas, Lost Forest, Western Juniper and Little Sink, and recognize their unique values and the need for special management and protection, but not for their designation as wilderness.

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER • 1201 COURT STREET N.E.
P.O. BOX 12729 / SALEM, OREGON 97309 / (503) 585-8351

KESS CANNON
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Rescheduled - 4/16/79 RA

P-L-3a CR 088

BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM - GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Merrill Willard
ADDRESS : 1201 E. 28th Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MIG) DATE: 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with The BLM Proposed Initial Inventory of Roadless Areas which Clearly lack Wilderness Characteristics. I have been in most of These Identified areas and Have found The past activities on These areas Clearly Evident.

✓ I agree with Proposed Instant Study area Recommendations.

8-4-1/a-OR-[illegible]

Entered 4/16/79 RA

(141)

BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW
SHEET

NAME : Wm F Doyle
ADDRESS : 1185 Airport Rd
Lebanon ORE. 97355

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG). DATE: 5/16/79

CONCERNS/INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the BLM's Proposed Initial Inventory, concerning Unit 8-2 thru Unit 8-8
Also Unit 9-1
The Booklet is dated April 1979

✓ I Agree that the five Instant Study Areas should be dropped from further study as a wilderness Area.

Entered 5/16/79 KA

BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW
SHEET

NAME : Bill Bentley
ADDRESS : 625 E. 38th
Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER: N.A. - 5/16/79 MPGT. DATE: 5/19/79

CONCERNS/INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree that units 8.2 through 9.1 in The wilderness proposed initial inventory Does not have wilderness characteristics. These units are in Salem + Eugene

---

I also agree that the five units in the instant study area should be considered to be non wilderness areas and to be dropped from the instant study

Submitted 4/6/79 — RH

RH

BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM — GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Stone
ADDRESS : 3855 Dunlap NE.
Albany, OR 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG) DATE: 5-16-79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the opinions expressed in the BLM Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory Booklet published April 1979 concerning study areas which lack wilderness characteristics. The areas designated in the booklet are too public and would never give the seeker what he's looking for in terms of solitude & land untouched by man. I have been in most of the areas 8-2, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 + 9-1. They have never appealed to me as being wilderness oriented.

I also agree with the recommendation to drop the 5 instant study areas from BLM's wilderness program. I have been to 4 of the 5 study areas. & none of them have impressed me as having wilderness potential.

Entered - 6/6/79 - KA

(PH)

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM -
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Taylor
ADDRESS : 411 SE. 14 Albany, Ore. 97321

INTERVIEWER: E.N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG: T. DATE: 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with Wilderness proposed initial inventory printed April 1979 that they do not have wilderness characteristics, I also think the five areas Lost Forest, Western Juniper Little Sink, Brewer Spruce & Douglas fir that they do not show wilderness characteristics, I have visited most of the above locations & traveled on roads in these areas, roads that people had homes on, and I think these roads will be there for a long time. To consider if areas are considered wilderness areas how will people be able to get to these areas to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness?

WILDERNESS REPORT

Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area

Oregon

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

February 1980

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area is a 210-acre tract of land in Josephine County, Oregon. It is contiguous to approximately 1,500 acres of roadless public lands which are eligible for wilderness review. Additional contiguous public lands are exempt from wilderness review because they are revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands being managed for commercial timber production. A total of 1,710 acres of roadless public land was reviewed for wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Instant Study Area Recommendation

The Brewer Spruce Research National Area and contiguous, roadless public lands which are subject to review for wilderness characteristics are recommended as unsuitable for wilderness. No changes are proposed for the future management of the area.

The area does not meet any of the size requirements for wilderness areas. Only about 500 acres appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprints of human activities are substantially noticeable in most of the area. The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation because of its configuration and because dense vegetation, steep slopes and dangerous cliffs restrict travel and any recreational activities to ridgetops.

This recommendation will not cause economic or social impacts.

The short-term and long-term effects of this recommendation would be to remove the area from the constraints of the interim management policy guidelines imposed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The previously designated 210 acres would be maintained in their existing condition under continuing management as a research natural area. The 1,500 contiguous acres would be managed for multiple use according to current BLM guidelines and procedures.

The study has not identified any options that would be foregone if this recommendation is adopted.

Wayne E. Bodey — FEB 21 1980

ACTING District Manager, Medford — Date

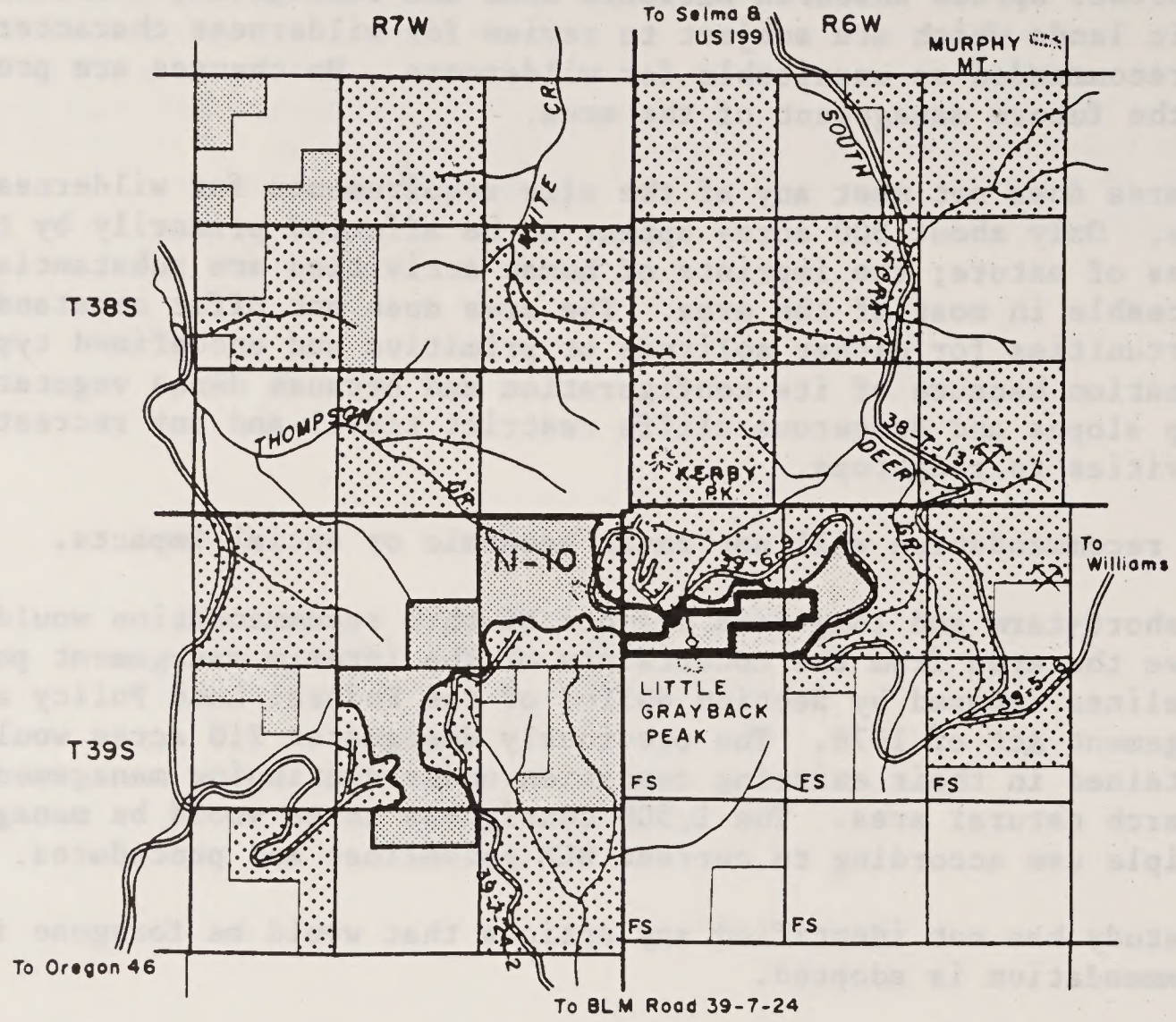
E. J. Petersen — FEB 29 1980

ACTING State Director, Oregon — Date

/s/ Frank Gregg — June 27, 1980

Director, Bureau of Land Management — Date

WILDERNESS REVIEW
BREWER SPRUCE INSTANT STUDY AREA



LEGEND

BOUNDARY OF ISA

BLM INVENTORY UNIT — I-14

ELIMINATED BLM LAND

EXEMPT BLM LAND

OWNERSHIP

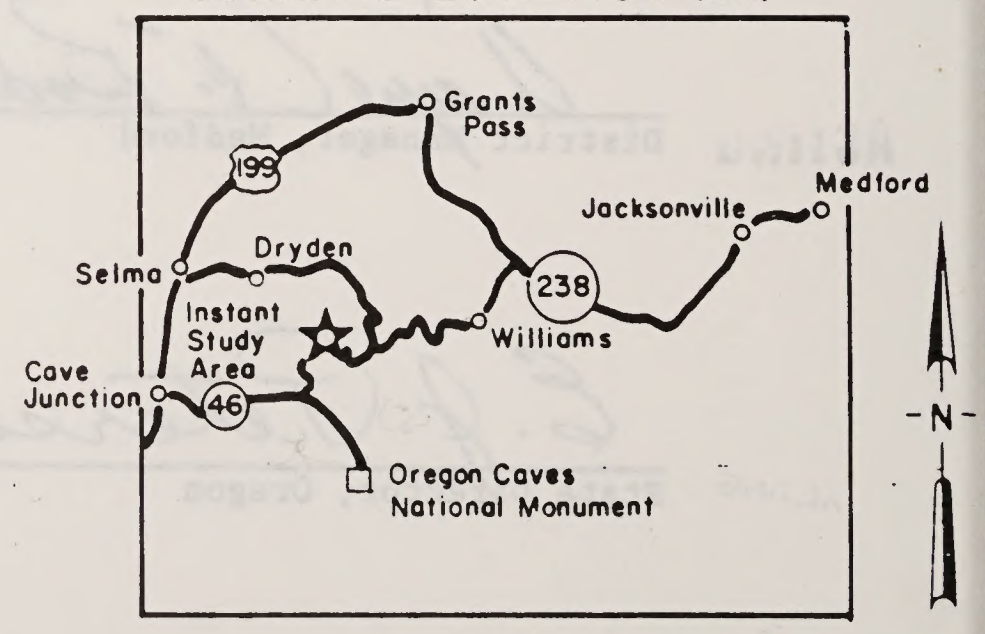
Forest Service — FS

SCALE 1:100000

0 1 2 3 4 5 KM

0 1 2 MILES

GENERAL LOCATION MAP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

DECEMBER 1979

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bewer Spruce
Research Natural Area
Josephine County, Oregon
Medford District

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if any)	Total
Acres Without Wilderness Characteristics	210	1,500	1,710
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics	N/A	N/A	
Total	210	1,500	1,710
Ownership in Study Area			
BLM	210	1,500	1,710

WILDERNESS REVIEW
BREWER SPRUCE INSTANT STUDY AREA

GENERAL LOCATION MAP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON

DECEMBER 1973

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1 - Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area, facing southeast. Adjacent unroaded land is on the right.

Photograph No. 2 - Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area, facing south-southeast. Rabbit Lake is in the center of this photograph.

Photograph No. 3 - Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area,
facing southwest across Rabbit Lake.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area was established on January 29, 1965. The area occupies a rugged ridgetop in the Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon. The vegetation in the area is a high-elevation, mixed conifer community with associated brushfields. Brewer spruce is abundant in the area, but it is only one of at least ten different coniferous tree species. Approximately 60 percent of the area is forested, about 25 percent is covered by brushfields and the remaining area is bare rock. A large clearcut area north of the natural area was logged in 1964. Clearcut areas extend into the research natural area in two places, covering about ten acres.

This natural area offers opportunities for studies of forest ecology and high elevation brushfields. No other significant resource values have been identified in the area.

The initial finding that this area of 1,710 acres does not have wilderness characteristics was announced in April 26, 1979. A 60-day period for public review and comment was announced on the same date. Public meetings were held at several locations, including Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Salem and Portland, to discuss the preliminary finding and to receive comments.

Seven comments were received from individuals, organizations, or agencies. All of the comments either directly or indirectly supported the initial finding. There were no public comments suggesting that the area be considered further as a potential wilderness area. Two of the comments specifically mentioned that the resources in the area should be preserved and that research natural area designation is more appropriate than wilderness status would be. Copies of all public comments submitted regarding this area are included in the Permanent Documentation File at the Medford District Office, and are provided in Appendix B of this report.

The State Director's final determination that the Brewer Spruce Instant Study Area and the 1,500 acres of contiguous public land subject to wilderness review do not have wilderness characteristics was announced on August 29, 1979.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Intensive Inventory

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands): 11-10

Areas/Island name: Brewer Spruce

District: Medford State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? ___yes _X_ no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? ___yes _X_ no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ___yes _X_ no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? _X_ yes ___ no

B. Resulting map.
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, recommended boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENTATION

Check one:
___ Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
_X_ Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
___ A portion of the area(s) or island(s) should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

ACTING District Manager: Wayne A. Boden

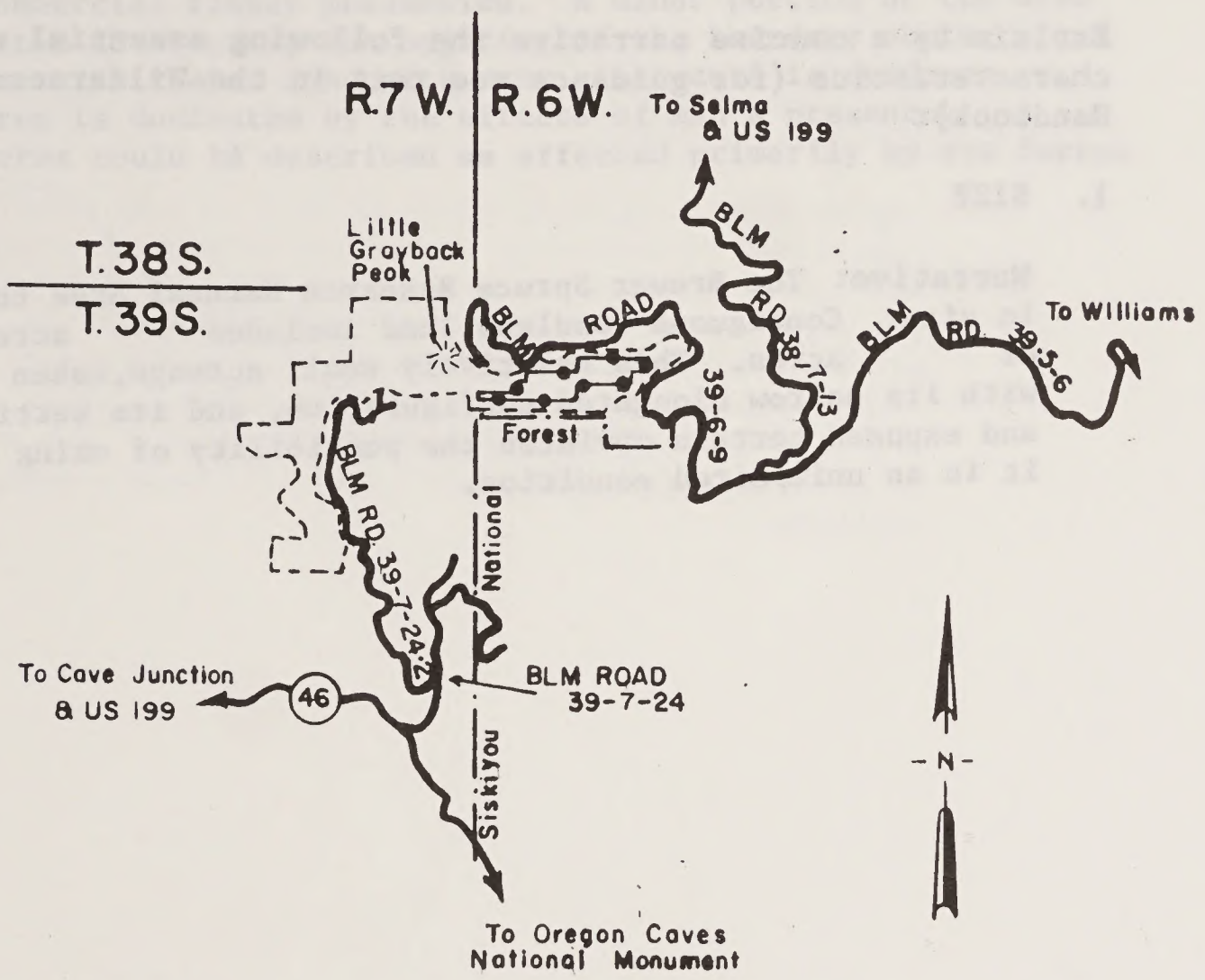
Date: Feb. 23, 1979

B. State Director: _____

Date: _____

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1978 O - 274-430

BREWER SPRUCE
INSTANT WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



LEGEND

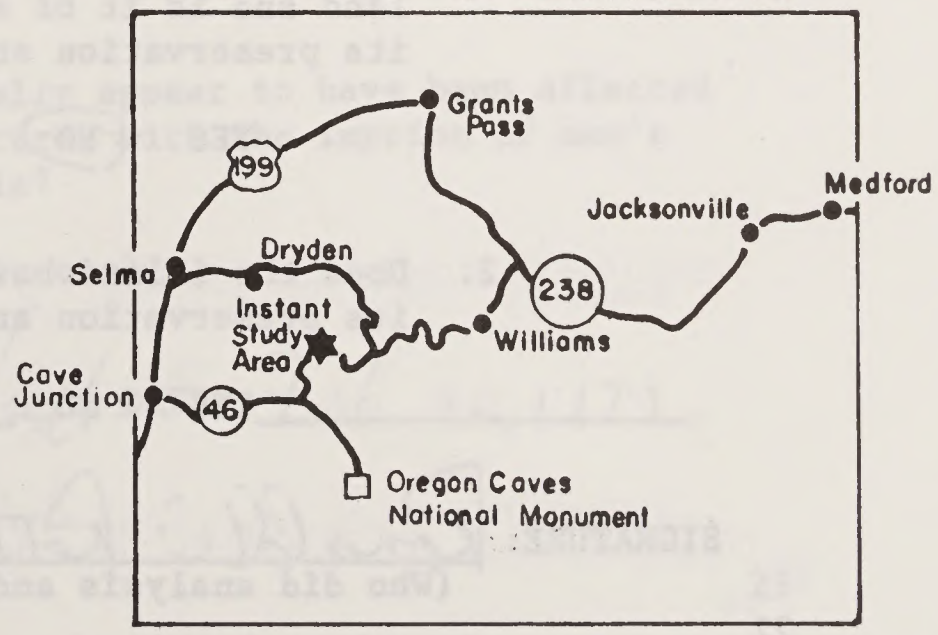
Contiguous Roadless Land Eligible For Wilderness Review

Research Natural Area

Road

SCALE: 1/2 Inch = 1 Mile

GENERAL LOCATION MAP



WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. 11-10

NAME OF AREA Brewer Spruce

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics (for guidance see text in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook):

1. SIZE

Narrative: The Brewer Spruce Research Natural Area totals 210 acres in size. Contiguous roadless land includes [illegible] acres for a total of [illegible] acres. This relatively small acreage, taken in combination with its narrow elongated configuration, and its setting in steep and exposed terrain obviates the possibility of using or preserving it in an unimpaired condition.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES (NO) (circle one)

2. Does the island have sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Ronald W. Rothrock DATE: Feb. 20, 1979
(Who did analysis and when)

UNIT NO. 11-10

2. NATURALNESS

Narrative: The Natural Area is ringed on three sides by surfaced roads used for timber harvest and related activities. Adjacent land is actively managed for commercial timber production. A minor portion of the area has unregenerated clear-cuts; the majority of the boundary abuts harvested commercial timber land with many clear-cuts in evidence. Much of the area is dominated by the effects of man's presence. Perhaps 500 acres could be described as affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Summary: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Donald C Rothschild DATE: Feb 20, 1979

UNIT NO. 11-10

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Narrative: The opportunity for solitude in the area is controlled by elongated, narrow configuration, dense vegetation, and ridgeline dominated terrain.

Narrow widths (½ to ¼ mile) of much of the area decrease the likelihood of avoiding sights and sounds of other users. Dense vegetation provides a screening effect, but precludes travel off constructed trails. Exposed brushfields on south-facing slopes reduce solitude. Travel is largely restricted to ridgelines because of very steep side slopes. Large expanses of rock cliffs make travel difficult in one area. The overall effect is to greatly reduce the likelihood of finding opportunities for solitude.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Ronald W Rutherford DATE: Feb 20, 1979

UNIT NO. 11-10

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Narrative: Opportunities exist within the area for hiking, limited backpacking, hunting, horse use, photography, and botanical, geological, and scenery sightseeing. Rock climbing opportunities are slight due to the metavolcanic origin of the rock in the area, which makes technical climbing dangerous. Rock scrambling is possible but not a good opportunity. The area's small size greatly limits the opportunity for unconfined recreation.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Ronald W. Rothschadl DATE: Feb 20, 1979

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: The area contains a great diversity of interesting plant species, including twelve species of conifers. Most notable is the presence of the infreqently found Brewer Spruce, Picea breweriana, and Alaska yellow cedar, Chamaecyparis nootkatensis, both occurring here at the extreme of their range. One plant species, Sarcades senguinea, has been placed on the Oregon Provisional List of Threatened and Endangered Plants. These botanical values are of great scientific and educational interest. Recreational interest is moderate. The inventoried area has substantial scenic value. Good views of surrounding ridges and mountains exist, but are diminished by the prevalence of roads and clear-cuts on the landscape.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Ronald W. Kalkstall DATE: Feb 20, 1979

UNIT NO. 11-10

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative: Clear-cuts within and around the area have not regenerated conifers satisfactorily despite planting efforts. Unstocked clear-cuts in the unit are 14 years old. Major visual intrusions surround the area and could not be expected to be rehabilitated easily. Existing partial cuts within the area will become satisfactorily unnoticeable through natural means.

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Russell C. Patchett DATE: Feb 20, 1979

APPENDIX B

Public Comment Letters and Forms

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1069 STATE OFFICE BLDG., PORTLAND, OREGON 97201 PHONE (503) 229-5580

April 27, 1979

Intergovernmental Relations Division
Room 306, State Library Building
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Sir:

For project 7904-5-240, we have reviewed the document entitled "Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory" for the Bureau of Land Management. Our review is somewhat cursory and does not include a consideration of rock resources. Likewise, it does not contain a detailed review of data presented in Department publications (list enclosed), open-file reports (list enclosed) and Mined Land Reclamation files and maps.

For the various districts of the state, we offer the following information on mineral potential:

1) Lakeview District - Geothermal potential for all areas;
Uranium potential for all areas
1-1 through 1-12 — potential for obsidian and gemstones;
silicifications in 1-5
1-21,22,24 — diatomite deposits
1-108 — sunstones occur in the Rabbit Hills area

2) Burns District

2-98 — possible chromite and platinum
2-14 and areas to south — uranium potential;
also geothermal potential
2-18,19,111 — petroleum potential
2-49 through 53
2-83,85,82,81 — potential for copper, mercury, precious stones, and geothermal energy
2-73 — deposits of salt and borax; potential for geothermal

3) Vale District — Potential for geothermal resources and potential for uranium.

3-77 — deposits of betonite
3-56,76,77 — deposits of semi-precious stone, including picture rock

3-153,156,157,203,204 — deposits of mercury, uranium, lithium, and semi-precious gemstones
South of latitude 44°N — oil and gas potential

5) Prineville District — Potential for geothermal resources and uranium deposits south of latitude 44°N
5-33,34,35,36,40 — bentonite deposits
5-64,65 — Potential for geothermal resources; also, semi-precious stones, mercury and obsidian.

6) Baker District

6-10 — Possible potential for limestone cement rock
6-1,2,3,8 — potential for copper, gold and silver

11) Medford District

11-16 Potential for gold, copper, silver, lead, and zinc
11-10 Potential for gold

For the total area, we recommend close study of Department Bulletin 100 on the geology and mineral resources of Josephine County (in press).

The broad approach we have adopted for this review is necessitated by the crude present state of knowledge on the mineral resource potential of the State of Oregon. Realistic inventories adequate for Oregon Land use purposes and BLM Wilderness Review require additional mapping and assessment efforts.

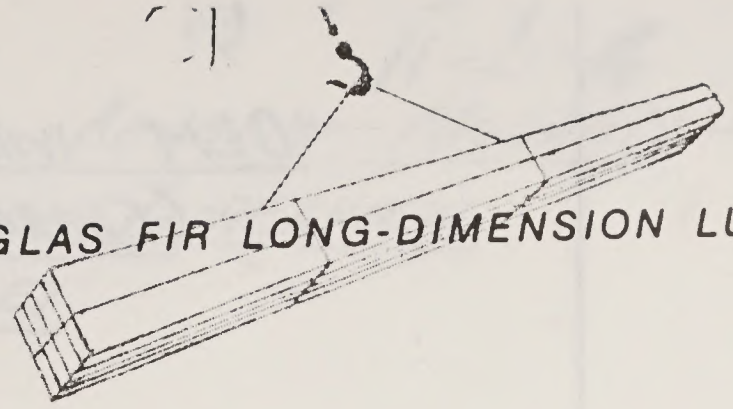
Efficient and systematic inventories rather than localized studies are needed for broad areas. We estimate that metallic mineral assessments for areas the size of BLM Districts would cost between 50 and 100 thousand dollars for our Department to complete.

Sincerely,

John D. Beaulieu
Deputy State Geologist

JDB:mc

URPHY CREEK DIVISION
MOUNTAIN FIR
UMBER CO., INC.
0 WILLIAMS HIGHWAY / GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526



May 2, 1979

Inv. Unit - # 11-10

Bureau of Land Management
310 W. 6th St.
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Sir:

In response to your news release of April 26, 1979. I would like to comment on your Brewer Spruce research natural area.

I do not believe this area should not be included in the national wilderness system.

The B. S. research natural area is not only too small to be maintained as a wilderness, but is in an area already containing many thousands of acres of wilderness. As for the Brewer Spruce it is neither rare nor endangered but occurs throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California at the higher elevation.

I would hope that this B. S. research area would be returned to a managed forest and the wanton waste of our natural resources eliminated.

MEDFORD, OREGON
79 MAY -4 AM 10:37

MOUNTAIN FIR LUMBER CO., INC.
MURPHY CREEK DIVISION

C. C. Lloyd
Division Forester

11-B-3

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Merrill Willard
ADDRESS : 1201 E. 28th Albany, Or. 97322

INTERVIEWER: + N.A. - 5/16/79 Mtg + DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with The BLM Proposed Initial Inventory of Roadless Areas which Clearly lack Wilderness Characteristics. I have been in Most of These Identified areas and Have found The past activities on These areas Clearly Evident.

Includes #11-10 ✓ I agree with Proposed Instant Study area Recommendations.

11-B-4

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —

GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Wm F Doyle
ADDRESS : 1185 Airport Rd
Lebanon ORE. 97355

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 Mtg. DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I Agree with the BLM's Proposed Initial Inventory, concerning Unit 8-2 thru Unit 8-8 Also Unit 9-1 The Booklet is dated April 1979

✓ I Agree that the five Instant Study Areas should be dropped from fuather study as a wilderness Area.

Includes #11-10

11-B-05

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM -
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Bill Bentley
ADDRESS : 625 E. 38th
Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER: N.A - 5/16/79 mail. DATE : 5/19/7

CONCERNS/INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree that units 8.2 through 9.1 m
The wilderness proposed initial inventory
Does not have wilderness characteristics
These units are in Salem + Eugene.

#11-10

I also agree that the five units in
the instant study area should be consid
to be non wilderness areas and to be
dropped from the instant study

C C 11-B-~~86~~ 4

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM -

GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Stone
ADDRESS : 3855 Dunlap NE.
Albany, OR 97321

INTERVIEWER: C.N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG DATE : 5-16-79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the opinions expressed in the BLM's Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory Booklet published April 1979 concerning study areas which lack wilderness characteristics. The areas designated in the booklet are too public and would never give the seeker what he is looking for in terms of solitude & land untouched by man. I have been in most of the areas 8-2, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 & 9-1. They have never appealed to me as being wilderness oriented.

I also agree with the recommendation to drop the 5 instant study areas from BLM's wilderness program. I have been to 4 of the 5 study areas. & none of them have impressed me as having wilderness potential.

#11-10

11-B-7

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Taylor
ADDRESS : 410 SE. 14 Albany, Ore. 97321

INTERVIEWER: E.N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG. DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with Wilderness proposed initial inventory printed April 1979 that they donot have wilderness characteristics, I also think the five areas Lost Trail, Western Juniper, Little Deschutes, Brewer Spruce & Douglas fir that they donot show wilderness characteristics, I have visited most of the above locations & traveled on roads in these areas, roads that people had homes on, and I think these roads will be there for a long time. If areas are considered wilderness areas how will people be able to get in these areas to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness?

#11-10

II-B-8

~~6~~

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Forestry Department

OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER

2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

May 21, 1979

Includes Inv. Unit
#11-10

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research hatural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B

INVENTORY UNIT - #11-10

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

11-8-13

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHMENTS

Ted D Brown

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

II-B-13

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees that the five "Instant Wilderness Study Areas" administered by BLM in Oregon do not have Wilderness characteristics. However, these research natural areas contain unique flora and fauna characteristics and should be preserved.

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

11-B-13

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Intergovernmental Relations Division
Room 306, State Library Building
Salem, Oregon 97310, Phone: 378-3732

#11-16

STATE A-95 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: ~~U.S. Forest Service~~

PROJECT TITLE: ~~Lost Forest Western Juniper, Little~~ Sink, Brewe Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study"

DATE: ~~June 12, 1979~~

The state has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

[X] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and ~~your proposal is endorsed as presented.~~

[X] Relevant comments of state agencies are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.

[ ] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of the state agency(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

[ ] Significant conflicts with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and the final comments and recommendations of the state are attached.

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY

The following is the officially assigned State Identifier Number:

7904 5 1330

This number should be used on all correspondence and particularly on SF 424 as required by OMB A-98.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency as required by OMB A-95. Comments of the appropriate local reviewing agencies will be submitt to you separately and must also be included.

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

We concur that the 5 areas noted are not suitable for wilderness designation.

Agency Parks By C H Bahn

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To Be Excluded From Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

As noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, there are established management methods for conserving the unique features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and management of natural areas is more restrictive than that which would be applied under wilderness designation. These generally small areas should be managed to protect their unique natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to maintain an area's unique natural feature should be returned to the normal land use planning process. It appears that the Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this category.

DD:jr
1506B

11-A+B -

RH

EXXON MINERALS COMPANY, U.S.A.
POST OFFICE BOX 120 • DENVER, COLORADO 80201

R. E. ROHN
VICE PRESIDENT
EXPLORATION

June 19, 1979

Oregon State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Sir:

Exxon Minerals Company, U.S.A. takes this opportunity to comment on the Oregon proposed Initial Wilderness Inventory. We have reviewed each identified area; and based on the personal knowledge of our geologists and published geological data, we believe that the following areas have significant mineral potential:

OR 11-10, 11-16 and 11-17 are situated within a region having high potential for the existence of base metal massive sulfide deposits. Exploration for such deposits is currently being conducted in the region.

We sincerely hope that you will give serious consideration to the above comment and to withdrawal of the subject areas from further consideration for Wilderness classification.

Sincerely,

R. E. Rohn

RER:ORH:svd

'79 JUN 28 A9:51
MEDFORD, OREGON

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To be Excluded from Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on [illegible] have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of [illegible] wilderness characteristics. On the basis [illegible] characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research [illegible]

[illegible] established management methods for conserving [illegible] features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and [illegible] which generally [illegible] small areas [illegible] natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to [illegible] to [illegible] Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this [illegible].

DOIjc
1506B

WILDERNESS REPORT

Little Sink Research Natural Area

Oregon

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

February 1980

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INTRODUCTION

The Little Sink Research Natural Area is an 80 acre tract of public land in Polk County, Oregon. The 80 acres are surrounded by privately owned land. The Instant Study Area which was reviewed for wilderness characteristics contains only the 80 acres included in the natural area.

Wilderness Instant Study Area Recommendation

The Little Sink Research Natural Area is recommended as unsuitable for wilderness. No changes are proposed for the future management of the area.

The area does not meet any of the size requirements for wilderness areas. The 80 acres do appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of human activities being substantially unnoticeable. Because of its small size the area does not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

This recommendation will not cause economic or social impacts.

The short-term and long-term effects of this recommendation would be to remove the area from the constraints of the interim management policy guidelines imposed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The previously designated 80 acres would be maintained in their existing condition under continuing management as a research natural area.

The study has not identified any options that would be foregone if this recommendation is adopted.

Edward L. Stamber — 2-21-80

District Manager, Salem — Date

ACTING E. J. Peterson — FEB 29 1980

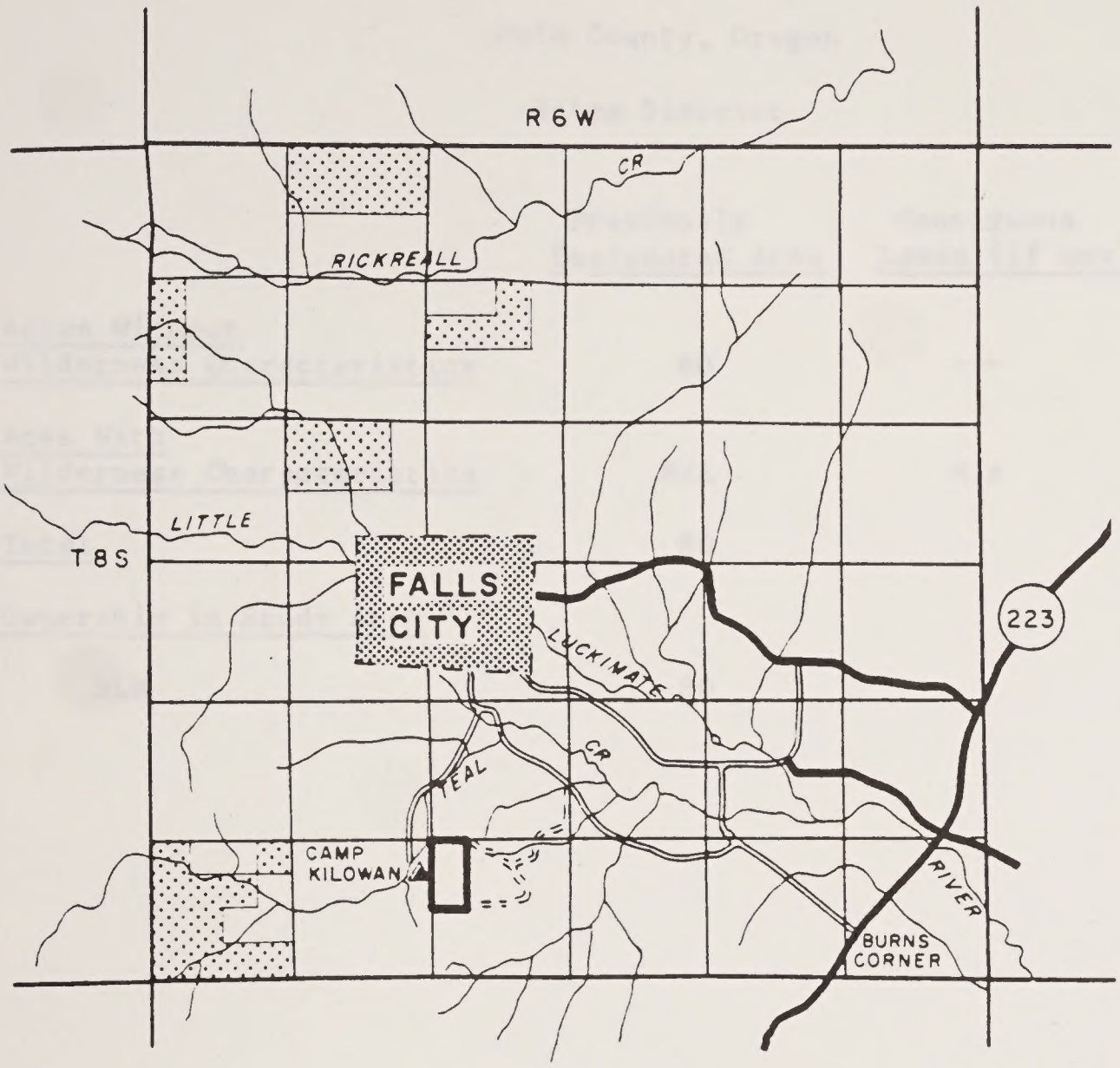
State Director, Oregon — Date

/s/Frank Gregg — June 27, 1980

Director, Bureau of Land Management — Date

Director, Bureau of Land Management	Date
Secretary, Department of the Interior	Date
Director, Region 6	Date

WILDERNESS REVIEW
LITTLE SINK INSTANT STUDY AREA



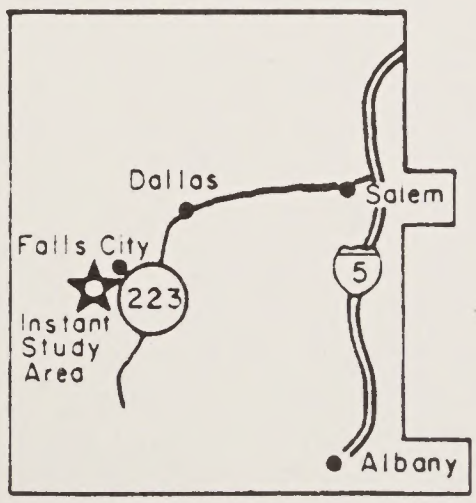
LEGEND

BOUNDARY OF ISA

ELIMINATED BLM LAND

EXEMPT BLM LAND

GENERAL LOCATION MAP



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON

DECEMBER 1979

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Little Sink

Research Natural Area

Polk County, Oregon

Salem District

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if any)	Total
Acres Without Wilderness Characteristics	80	---	80
Area With Wilderness Characteristics	N/A	N/A	
Total	80		80
Ownership in Study Area			
BLM	80		80

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1 -- Little Sink Research Natural Area looking across the lower pond.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Little Sink Research Natural Area was established in October, 1973. It occupies an area of the Coast Range foothills that has been extensively affected by large-scale landsliding and frequent mass soil movements. The area is forested, primarily with Douglas-fir, and has been designated a natural area in order to preserve the diversity within this forest type which occurs in an area with substantial geological disturbance. Three distinct plant communities have been identified and, in addition, there are many microhabitats occupying small areas.

The area contains two perennial ponds occupying slump basins, and many intermittent ponds. The Little Sink area provides excellent habitat for many animals, including waterfowl, some of which nest in the area.

The natural area offers opportunities for research concerned with the development of timber management policies and logging practices for similar areas in the Coast Range. In addition, the area is suitable for studies of the relationships among soils, vegetation and fauna in areas frequently affected by geological disturbances.

The initial finding that this 80-acre area does not have wilderness characteristics was announced on April 26, 1979. A 60-day period for public review and comment was announced on the same date. Public meetings were held at several locations, including Salem and Portland, Oregon, to discuss the preliminary finding and to receive comments.

Ten comments were received from individuals, organizations or agencies. Nine of the comments either directly or indirectly supported the initial finding. One of the comments disagreed with the finding and argued that the area has wilderness characteristics and that the size criteria should not be used as a basis for establishing wilderness areas. Two of the comments which agreed with the preliminary finding specifically mentioned that the area should be preserved and that the research natural area designation is more appropriate than wilderness status would be. Copies of all public comments submitted regarding this area are included in the Permanent Documentation File at the Salem District Office, and are provided in Appendix B of this report.

The State Director's final determination that the Little Sink Instant Study Area does not have wilderness characteristics was announced on August 29, 1979.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Intensive Inventory

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory Unit No: OR-8-1

Area Name: Little Sink Research Natural Area "Instant Study Area"

District: Salem State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area appear to be natural? X yes ____ no
2. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? ____ yes X no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ____ yes X no
4. Does the area have supplemental values? X yes ____ no

B. Resulting map.
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, recommended boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENDATION

Check one:
____ Area should be approved as a WSA.
X Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
____ A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: Edward P. Stamper

Date: 4-6-79

B. State Director : _____

Date: _____

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. OR-8-1

NAME OF AREA Little Sink Research Natural Area "'Instant' Study Area"

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics:

1. SIZE

The inventory unit is 80 acres of contiguous land administered by the BLM. It is rectangular in shape, constituting the W½NW¼ Section 33, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian.

The unit is completely surrounded by private lands. Roads do not constitute any portion of the unit's boundary.

The size of the area is not considered suitable for wilderness management.

Summary: Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L. Alward DATE: April 6, 1979

2. NATURALNESS

The unit is a component of the Federal Research Natural Area (RNA) system. Reflecting management objectives for a RNA, the unit exists in a natural state with few human impacts that disrupt its natural features and biotic ecosystems.

Approximately five acres of vegetation within the unit at its northeast and southeast corners has been removed by encroaching clear cut timber harvesting techniques applied on the adjacent lands. A perennial pond and its associated ecosystem located on the west boundary of the unit has been partially altered and disrupted by timber harvest operations. Other human impacts within the inventory unit are limited primarily to the vacinity of two perennial ponds which have substandard foot trails leading to them from the west. In addition, some minor damage along these riparian environments has resulted from repetitive foot travel.

The naturalness of the landscape of the adjacent private lands has been drastically disrupted by logging practices and the development of Camp Fire Girls' Camp Kilowan. Roads, skid trails, buildings, and other developed facilities are evidence of these impacts.

While the imprint of human activities adjacent to and surrounding the inventory unit adversely impacts the naturalness of the general vacinity in which the inventory unit is located, the unit, in and of itself, appears to be generally natural and remains untrammeled by man and his activities.

Summary: Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L. Alward DATE: April 6, 1979

UNIT NO. OR-8-1

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Diverse topography, characterized by steep to very steep slopes interrupted by slump benches, scarps and basins, aided by dense vegetative screening, provides locations within the unit which may offer some degree of solitude for the casual visitor of the unit.

However, the majority of the unit's landscape is oriented such that it faces Camp Kilowan (1,100 feet to the west) and a nearby county road (approximately 900 feet northwest). The audible intrusions generated by vehicular travel and Camp Kilowan activities lessens the opportunity to experience solitude within the majority of the unit. Additionally, the frequency and numbers of people visiting the unit during the summer months further restricts one's opportunity to experience any significant degree of solitude or seclusion from other people. The majority of the 1,400 people who use Camp Kilowan each year hike into the inventory unit at one time or another during their stay. This use is conducted as day hikes to two of the perennial ponds associated with the unit. Both of these ponds are centrally located on the north-south axis of the unit and are located as to provide the easiest foot access of all the features in the unit.

Therefore, due to its general orientation in relation to human activities on adjacent lands, as well as its small size and its shape, the degree of solitude one may experience within the unit is considered to be of a limited nature.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L. Alward DATE: April 6, 1979

UNIT NO. OR-8-1

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

The unit's small size makes it virtually impossible to experience a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Hiking, botonical and zoological sightseeing and photography are dispersed, non-motorized and undeveloped forms of recreation activities available within the unit. However, opportunities for these activities are severely restricted to the unit's 80 acres. Beyond the boundaries of the unit these opportunities are severely altered or nonexistent and prohibit any resemblance of an opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES (NO) (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L Alward DATE: April 6, 1979

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

The inventory unit was designated a RNA to exemplify the diversity within the Douglas-fir forest type occupying an area which has undergone considerable landsliding. Its primary value is that it represents a geologically disturbed area with slumps, ponds and recent natural disturbances. Three distinct plant communities have been identified within the unit. The ponds and their specific micro-environments and habitats contribute considerably to diversity of flora and fauna.

The inventory unit is preserved for scientific research and educational studies of its natural features and natural processes in an unaltered ecosystem.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L. Alward DATE: April 6, 1979

UNIT NO. OR-8-1

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

There exists no significant imprints of man's work within the unit which warrant mitigative measures to return the area to an unnoticeable level.

Summary: If the area were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

(YES) NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Robert L Howard DATE: April 6, 1979

APPENDIX B

Public Comment Letters and Forms

Bureau of Land Management
Salem District
3550 Liberty Rd. S.
Salem, OR 97302

8-A-1a

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
RECEIVED
APR 25 1979
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM, OREGON
[redacted]

Evaluated - 6/18/79 - [illegible]

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Date 4/24/79

Inventory Unit Number 8-8
(Area on which you want to comment)

Comments by Jim Owens
(Name)

Address Polk County Planning Div. Courthouse, Dallas, OR

District Salem

Meeting attended (Mail response)

PLEASE CHECK:
Area should _____ should not ✓
be more intensively inventoried.

You may find it convenient to submit your comments on a specific roadless area or island by addressing one or both of these criteria.

1. Natural Conditions. Are the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable? What man-made features are you aware of in the inventory unit?

2. Does the area or island provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Why or why not?

Planning staff concurs with District staff analysis that this unit does not merit further study.

over

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

We would appreciate your comments during this phase of the Wilderness Review being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. During this early phase of the process we are trying to separate roadless areas and islands which warrant a more intensive inventory from those which clearly and obviously do not have wilderness characteristics.

Please list your comments, referring to a specific inventory unit, on the back of this sheet and return it to us during one of the public meetings or mail it to the district office which administers the area.

BLM's Oregon State Director has made his initial recommendations. Information and opinions we seek during this process will be considered in his final decision to eliminate or retain areas to proceed on through the wilderness inventory process.

Here is some information that might help you in your judgment:

Roads

Boundaries of roadless areas are either roads or non-BLM lands. For purposes of the wilderness inventory, BLM uses the roadless area definition contained in the legislative history of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

> The word "roadless" refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

If you believe that roads shown as boundaries of the inventory units are not roads--as defined above--or that additional roads divide the units into two or more areas, you may want to mark the maps accordingly and return them with your comments.

Wilderness Characteristics

Congress required that BLM use the criteria in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act to determine whether roadless areas of the public lands have wilderness characteristics. Congress said in Section 2(c) that:

> "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values."

over

Evaluated - 6/18/79 - RCA

[redacted]

PRESIDENT • GEORGE CALVERT — JOSEPHINE COUNTY
FIRST VICE PRES. • EARLE C. MISENER — UNION COUNTY
SECOND VICE PRES. • STAN SKOKO — CLACKAMAS COUNTY
TREASURER • F. E. KNIGHT — TILLAMOOK COUNTY

8-A-2a

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
1201 COURT STREET N.E.

P.O. BOX 12729
SALEM, OREGON 97309

(503) 585-8351

P. JERRY ORRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

16 May 1979

The Association of Oregon Counties 1201 Court St., NE, Salem, Oregon, P. O. Box 12729, 97309, supports the position of the Bureau of Land Management regarding five Research Natural Areas on BLM land in Oregon.

The AOC represents all 36 Oregon counties and the 117 elected county Commissioners and County Judges' who comprise the governing bodies of the counties in Oregon. The organization has been in existence for 74 years, with permanent headquarters and a full-time staff in Salem since 1959.

The BLM is in posession of a formal Resolution from the Lake County Commission regardingthe Lost Forest Research Natural Area. While we concur with your decision on the Lost Forest, we feel your further study will also determine that it does not qualify for wilderness designation, even though it will be studied in connection with decisions relative to larger study areas surrounding it.

The Western Juniper Instant Study Area, also a Research Natural Area, is part of a larger area for wilderness study and review. We concur, but also feel your further study in this instance will determine again that it is not suitable for wilderness designation.

AOC feels the special management provided for the Research Natural Areas is designed to provide adequate protection for their unique characteristics and designation as wilderness would not only interfere with this management but would in no way add to the values that called for the special designation in the first place.

With Little Sink, Brewer-Spruce, and Douglas-fir (Cherry Creek), we likewise concur with the BLM finding that the areas do not qualify for designation as wilderness.

I am personally familiar with three of the areas, Lost Forest, Western Juniper and Little Sink, and recognize their unique values and the need for special management and protection, but not for their designation as wilderness.

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER • 1201 COURT STREET N.E.
P.O. BOX 12729 / SALEM, OREGON 97309 / (503) 585-8351

KESS CANNON
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

[redacted]

8-A-3a ~~OR-08~~ 44

Evaluated 6/18/79 - RLA.

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM -

GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Merrill Willard

ADDRESS : 1201 E. 38th Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER: + N.A. - 5/16/79 Mtg. + DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the BLM Proposed Initial Inventory of Roadless areas which clearly lack the characteristics. I have been in Most of These Identified areas and Have found The past activities on These areas Clearly Evidente.

✓ I agree with the area Instant Study area Recommended for

Evaluated - 6/18/79 - RA.

[redacted]

8-A-4a ~~[illegible]~~

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM - GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Wm J Doyle
ADDRESS : 1185 Airport Rd
Lebanon ORE. 97355

INTERVIEWER : (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG). DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED -

I agree with the [illegible] Proposed Initial [illegible] concerning Unit 8-2 thru Unit 8-8
Also Unit 9-1
The booklet is [illegible]

✓ I [illegible] Instant [illegible] should be dropped from further [illegible]

Evaluated 6/18/79 RCA

[redacted]

8-A-5a ~~OR-08~~ ~~4/79~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Bill Bentley

ADDRESS : 62 S E. 38th

Albany, Or 97321

INTERVIEWER : (N.A - 5/16/79 MTGT. DATE : 5/ 9/ 79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree that units 8.2 through 9.1 m

The wilderness proposed [illegible] inventory

Does not have wilderness [illegible]

These units [illegible] Eugene

✓ I also agree at [illegible] units

[illegible] should [illegible]

to be [illegible] areas and [illegible]

dropped [illegible]

Evaluated — 6/18/79 - RA

[redacted] ~~OR-080~~ ~~4/79~~

8-A-6a

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM — GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Stone
ADDRESS : 3855 Dunlap NE.
Albany, OR 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG) DATE: 5-16-79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the opinions expressed in the BLM Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory Booklet published April 1979 concerning study areas which lack wilderness characteristics. The areas designated in the booklet are too public and would never give the seeker what he's looking for in terms of solitude & land untouched by man. I have been in most of the areas 8-2, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 + 9-1. They have never appealed to me as being wilderness oriented.

I also agree with the recommendation to drop the 5 instant study area from BLM's wilderness program. I have been to 4 of the 5 study areas + none of them have impressed me as having wilderness potential.

8-A-7a

Evaluated - 6/18/79 KA

- BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM -
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Taylor
ADDRESS : 410 SE. 14 Albany, Ore. 97321

INTERVIEWER: E.N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG. DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with Wilderness proposed initial inventory printed April 1979 that they almost have wilderness characteristics, I also think the five areas Lost Forest, Western Juniper, Little Sink, Brewer Spruce & Douglas fir that they dont show wilderness characteristics, I have visited most of the above locations & traveled on roads in these areas, roads that people had homes on, and I think these roads will be there for a long time. If some of areas are considered wilderness areas how will people be able to get to these areas to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness?

Evaluated 6/18/79 [illegible]

[redacted]

8-A-8a

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Little Sink
Instant Study Area

Date May 14, 1979

Inventory Unit Number 8-1
(Area on which you want to comment)

Comments by John Barnes
(Name)

Address 775 Boone Rd S.E #15 Salem, or. 97302

District Salem

Meeting attended 7:00 May 14

PLEASE CHECK:
Area should X should not ____
be more intensively inventoried.

You may find it convenient to submit your comments on a specific roadless area or island by addressing one or both of these criteria.

1. Natural Conditions. Are the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable? What man-made features are you aware of in the inventory unit? Man is indeed a visitor while within the Little Sink area. The only noticeable imprints are numerous foot trails. I am aware of NO man-made features, having explored the area considerably. Using merely the size criteria as a basis for establishing wilderness is not substantial. The extremely unique aspect of this area should be of utmost concern. Using an arbitrary assessment of solitude opportunities should also not be an essential decision criteria. Solitude is a state of mind NOT a physical condition. Although the area is

2. Does the area or island provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Why or why not?

Wilderness is more than "unconfined recreation". It is the ability to experience a place where nature dominates - man is essentially hurtled back to a primitive setting - a visitor sitting beside one of the small [illegible] listening to the [illegible] of nature, watching the wind [illegible] old growth down fir IS experiencing unconfined recreation!

over

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

We would appreciate your comments during this phase of the Wilderness Review being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. During this early phase of the process we are trying to separate roadless areas and islands which warrant a more intensive inventory from those which clearly and obviously do not have wilderness characteristics.

Please list your comments, referring to a specific inventory unit, on the back of this sheet and return it to us during one of the public meetings or mail it to the district office which administers the area.

BLM's Oregon State Director has made his initial recommendations. Information and opinions we seek during this process will be considered in his final decision to eliminate or retain areas to proceed on through the wilderness inventory process.

Here is some information that might help you in your judgment:

Roads

Boundaries of roadless areas are either roads or non-BLM lands. For purposes of the wilderness inventory, BLM uses the roadless area definition contained in the legislative history of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

> The word "roadless" refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

If you believe that roads shown as boundaries of the inventory units are not roads--as defined above--or that additional roads divide the units into two or more areas, you may want to mark the maps accordingly and return them with your comments.

Wilderness Characteristics

Congress required that BLM use the criteria in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act to determine whether roadless areas of the public lands have wilderness characteristics. Congress said in Section 2(c) that:

> "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values."

over

Evaluated 6/18/.. KA

8-A-8a

1. (continued)

surrounded by private land, its proximity to Camp Kilowan is an asset. Much comment against wilderness designation is the resulting limited use of areas to a small number of individuals. The Little Sink areas relatively easy access to the public is a major asset. Efforts are being made in the adjacent lands to curtail manggement practices which would affect other "sink" locations. Setting aside "Little Sink" could be a major step in this direction. A major critria for this area is its unique and valuable attribute as a geological, scientific, & educational resource. These qualities should be of major importance in the remaining inventory phase.

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8-A-10a

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May 25, 1979

Director
Salem District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 3227
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the recent request for comment on your decision not to recommend Wilderness classification for the Lost Sink Research Natural Area.

The Western Forestry and Conservation Association has long supported the concept of research natural areas and the ability to control entry into them. We are also on record as supporting the need for wilderness and the inclusion of some lands into the Wilderness sytem. We do not however feel that the two uses - research natural areas and Wilderness - are necessarily compatible. While "Wilderness" does have many retrictions relative to its use it does imply ready access to any and all meeting the restrictions. Additionally "Wilderness" designation does tend to invite visitors into an area with the possible consequences of human disturbance of the ecosystem to be preserved. For these reasons we generally do not support the designation of research natural areas as wilderness.

The Lost Sink RNA does not truly serve the concept of a research natural area. It is unique but is not distinctively so and is too small to provide solitude. These factors make it unsuitable for "Wilderness" classification. Therefore we concur with your recommendation not to seek "Wilderness" status.

Very truly yours,

Steele Barnett

Steele Barnett
Forest Counsel

SB:k

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM, OREGON

MID WILLAMETTE VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT
400 SENATOR BUILDING ★ 220 HIGH ST. N.E., SALEM, OREGON 97301
TELEPHONE (503) 588-6177
ALAN H. HERSHEY, Director

Evaluated - 6/22/79 - 1/A

O-A-28

May 21, 1979

Mr. Stanley D. Lester, Chief
Branch of Lands, Minerals & Rec.
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97034

PROJECT TITLE: LITTLE SINK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Manageme

SUBJECT: A-95 Review

Dear Mr. Stanley:

The Clearinghouse staff of the Council of Governments has completed its review of the subject program.

Your Notice of Intent was made available for inquiries by local agencies, but we received no comments. Since no comment was received to the contrary, we can assume that the program is consistent with comprehensive planning, and local plans, programs and objectives and no significant conflicts have been identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this program.

Very truly yours,

James R. Hockin

James R. Hockin
Clearinghouse Officer

JRH/g
cc: Martin Loring, State Clearinghouse Coordinator

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JUN 18 1979
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SALEM, OREGON

MEMBER AGENCIES:
State of Oregon. COUNTIES: Marion, Polk, Yamhill. CITIES: Amity, Aumsville, Aurora, Carlton, Dallas, Dayton, Detroit, Falls City, Gervais, Idanha Independence, Jefferson, Lafayette, McMinnville, Monmouth, Mt. Angel, Newberg, Salem, Sheridan, Silverton, Stayton, Sublimit Willamina, Woodburn. SPECIAL DISTRICTS: Chemeketa Community College, Marion County Fire District #1, Marion County Intermediate District, Yamhill County Intermediate Education District, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Salem School Di

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

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O-A-37

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STATE A-95 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: ~~U.S. Forest Service~~

PROJECT TITLE: ~~Lost Forest Western Juniper, Little~~ Sink, Brewer Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study"

DATE: ~~June 12, 1979~~

The state has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

[X] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and ~~your proposal is endorsed as presented~~.

[X] Relevant comments of state agencies are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.

[ ] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of the state agency(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

[ ] Significant conflicts with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and the final comments and recommendations of the state are attached.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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JUN 19 1979
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM, OREGON

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY

The following is the officially assigned State Identifier Number:

7904 5 1330

This number should be used on all correspondence and particularly on SF 424 as required by OMB A-98.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency as required by OMB A-95. Comments of the appropriate local reviewing agencies will be submit to you separately and must also be included.

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

Evaluated 6/22/79 RA

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

O-A-37

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees that the five "Instant Wilderness Study Areas" administered by BLM in Oregon do not have Wilderness characteristics. However, these research natural areas contain unique flora and fauna characteristics and should be preserved. this proposal, and we hope our comments were helpful as you are completing this phase of the study.

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ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHMENTS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM, OREGON

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Forestry Department

OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER

2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

O-A-37

Evaluated - 6/22/79 - KH

May 21, 1979

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research natural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B

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SALEM, OREGON

Evaluated 6/22/79 - KGA

O-A-37

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To Be Excluded From Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

As noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, there are established management methods for conserving the unique features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and management of natural areas is more restrictive than that which would be applied under wilderness designation. These generally small areas should be managed to protect their unique natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to maintain an area's unique natural feature should be returned to the normal land use planning process. It appears that the Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this category.

DD:jr
1506B

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ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: ~~MAY 25 1979~~

To Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

We concur that the 5 areas noted are not suitable for wilderness designation.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
RECEIVED
JUN 19 1979
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM, OREGON

Agency BLM By

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

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DG:js
1506B

WILDERNESS REPORT

LOST FOREST

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Bureau of Land Management

Department of the Interior

February 1980

NOTE TO REVIEWERS

960 acres of this Instant Study Area were found to have wilderness characteristics in conjunction with the larger Sand Dunes WSA (OR-1-24), and this portion was studied in the final Oregon Wilderness EIS and reported in the associated Wilderness Study Report. The remaining 8,000 acres were found to lack wilderness characteristics as documented in this report. The adjoining inventory units were found to lack wilderness characteristics and were released from wilderness review.

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INTRODUCTION

The Lost Forest Research Natural Area is an 8,960 acre tract of land in Lake County, Oregon. Portions of it are contiguous with BLM intensive wilderness inventory units 1-9 (32,360 acres), 1-12 (6,240 acres), and 1-24 (15,520 acres).

The entire Research Natural Area (RNA) was evaluated for wilderness characteristics in 1979. Those portions of the RNA which are contiguous with intensive inventory units are currently being re-evaluated as part of the intensive wilderness inventory of the larger units.

ASSESSMENT OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

The Lost Forest Research Natural Area does not possess wilderness characteristics. Roads divide the area into several parcels ranging in size from 600 to 2,500 acres. None of these parcels meets any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area. It would not be practicable to preserve and use any of the parcels as wilderness areas.

In addition to the roads, there are several ways in the area. The area was logged during the early 1950s and stumps are scattered throughout the stands of pine trees. Land near a large rock outcrop in the south central part of the area has been scarred by off-road vehicles. In various places picnickers and campers have compacted the soil and left fire pits. The impacts of these human activities are substantially noticeable. The area does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

The terrain is flat to gently rolling with occasional bluffs and rock outcrops. There are sand dunes in portions of the area. Vegetation includes relatively open stands of ponderosa pine, as well as western juniper, sagebrush, other shrubs and native grasses. The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the roads and ways, the lack of vegetation or topographic diversity which could provide effective screening, and the limited size of the area.

The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. There are too many disturbances of the natural landscape and the parcels without roads are too confining for the area to qualify as outstanding for wilderness recreational use.

In summary, the Lost Forest Research Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics. It is too small, it does not appear to be generally natural, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

STATUS OF CONTIGUOUS LANDS

Roads divide the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) into several parcels, some of which are contiguous with roadless public lands under BLM administration and subject to review for wilderness characteristics.

A small parcel in the southeastern corner of the RNA is part of Inventory Unit1-25. That unit was determined not to have wilderness characteristics in 1977-1978, during a special project inventory along a proposed route for a Pacific Power and Light Company transmission line.

Along the northwestern boundary there are three very small pieces of the RNA which are part of Inventory Unit 1-9. The northeastern section of the RNA is part of Inventory Unit 1-12, and a small parcel along southwestern boundary is part of Inventory Unit 1-24. These three inventory units are included in the intensive wilderness inventory that is currently underway. The proposed decisions of whether to recommend them for wilderness study area status or for elimination from further review will be announced in March 1980.

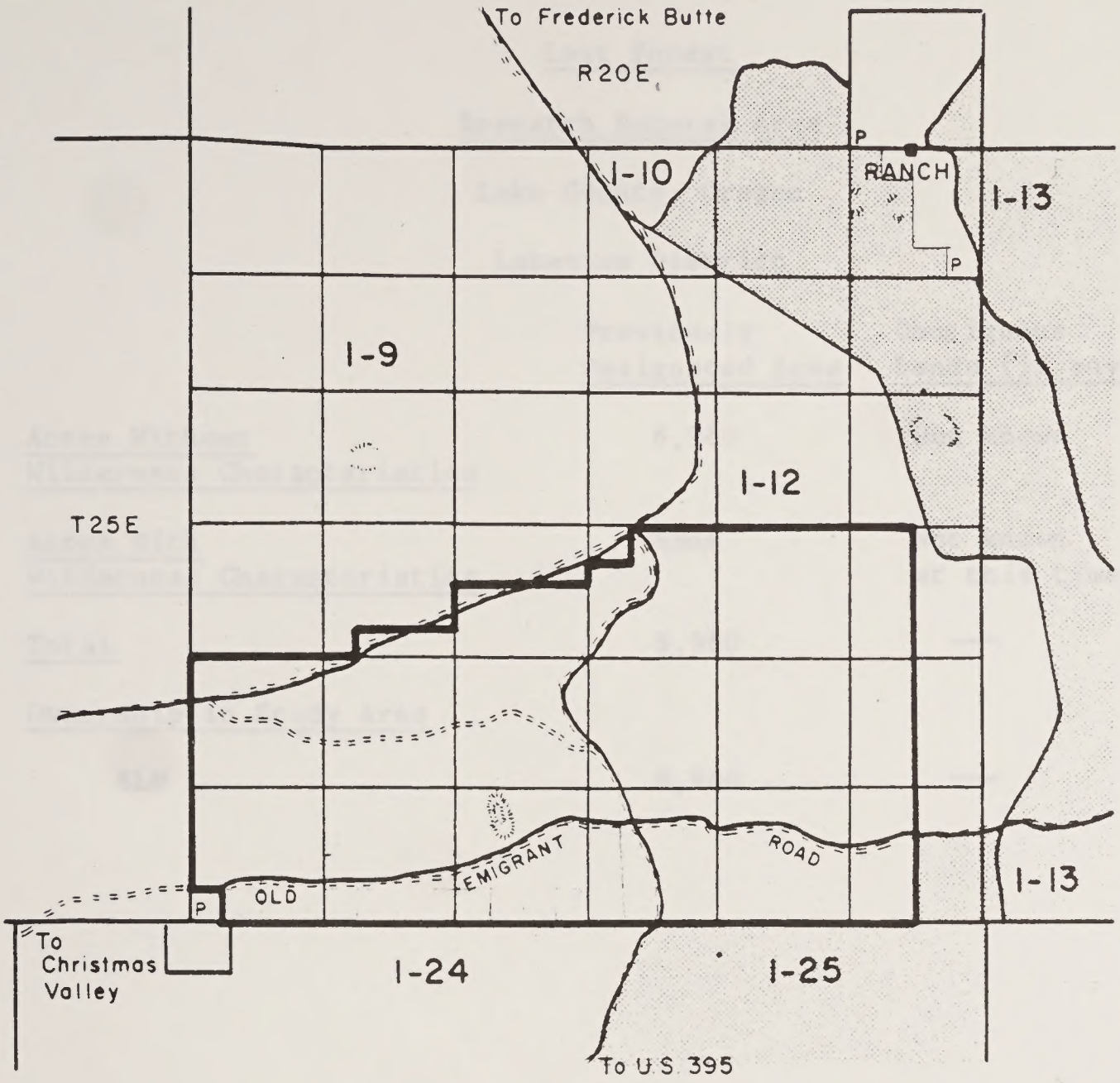
REASON FOR DEFERRAL AND SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION

The recommendation of whether the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) is suitable or unsuitable for wilderness has been deferred because several portions of the RNA are contiguous with three larger intensive wilderness inventory units. The three larger units include a total of 54,120 acres, an area which could not be intensively inventoried in time to meet the schedule for the wilderness review of the Instant Study Areas.

It has been determined that the RNA by itself does not have wilderness characteristics. However, it is possible that some portions of the RNA could have wilderness characteristics when evaluated with the larger contiguous units. Therefore, the recommendation has been deferred until completion of the intensive inventory of the contiguous units.

The field inventory of the contiguous lands has been completed and the proposed decisions on the intensive wilderness inventory is scheduled to be announced on March 27, 1980. That announcement will be followed by a 90-day period for public review and comment. The final decisions are scheduled to be announced in the early autumn of 1980. The final decisions on the contiguous units will become effective 30 days following their announcement, unless the decisions are protested and appealed. If no protests or appeals are received on any of decisions about the contiguous units, then the recommendation on the Lost Forest Instant Study Area will be submitted by December 1, 1980. If protests and appeals are made the submitted date would have to be indefinitely postponed.

WILDERNESS REVIEW
LOST FOREST INSTANT STUDY AREA



LEGEND

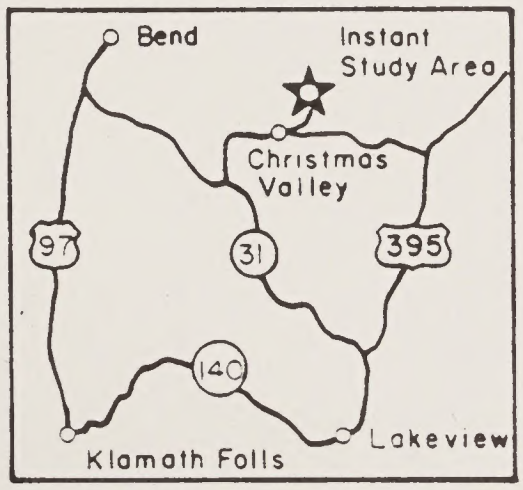
BOUNDARY OF ISA

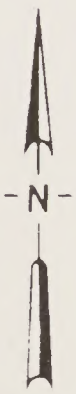
BLM INVENTORY UNIT — 1-14

ELIMINATED INVENTORY UNIT

OWNERSHIP
Private — P

GENERAL LOCATION MAP





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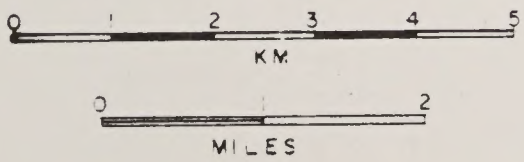


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON

DECEMBER 1979

I-14
I-15
I-10
I-12

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Lost Forest

Research Natural Area

Lake County, Oregon

Lakeview District

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if any)	Total
Acres Without Wilderness Characteristics	8,960	Not known	8,960
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics	None	Not known at this time	---
Total	8,960	---	8,960
Ownership in Study Area			
BLM	8,960	---	

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1 - Lost Forest Research Natural Area, showing ponderosa pine and western juniper in an area with virtually no undergrowth.

Photograph No. 2 - Lost Forest Research Natural Area, showing a portion of the area which has been logged.

Photograph No. 3 - Lost Forest Research Natural Area, showing the basalt outcrop in Section 33, and juniper and ponderosa pine trees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lost Forest Research Natural Area was established in 1972. The area is located on the eastern portion of the Christmas Lake Basin, a basin occupied by lakes during wet climatic periods of the Pleistocene and post-Pleistocene. The landscape is relatively flat, and, with the exception of occasional rock outcrops, the relief is gently. There are numerous old pluvial lake shoreline features and some areas of active sand dunes. The vegetation in the area is a mosaic of savanna, forest and shrub-steppe communities. The most distinctive aspect of the vegetation is the presence of stands of ponderosa pine in an arid, low-lying area at least 65 km. (40 miles) from the nearest forest outliers. The pines occur in open stands with western juniper, sage, and other shrubs.

This natural area offers opportunities for studies of an isolated ponderosa pine community and of the possibility that the Lost Forest ponderosa community has undergone significant genetic changes in adaptation to its arid encironment. Active sand dunes cover more than five percent of the area and provide opportunities for studies of dune formation and wind erosion. Lost Forest also offers opportunities for tree ring analyses, problem analysis of lake bottom sediments, and the study of fluctuations of pluvial lakes and possible human prehistory. No other significant resource values have been identified in the area.

The initial finding that the Lost Forest Research Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics was announced on April 26, 1979. A 60-day period for public review and comment was announced on the same day. Public meetings were held in several locations, including Lakeview, Klamath Falls and Portland, to discuss the preliminary finding and to receive comments.

Nineteen comments were received from individuals, organizations, or agencies. Twelve of the comments supported the initial finding either directly or indirectly. Of these, five identified specific wilderness characteristics which are lacking in the area. Two of these 12 comments specifically mentioned that the resources in the area should be preserved and that research natural area designation is more appropriate than wilderness status would be. Seven of the comments disagreed with the initial finding and urged that all or parts of the area be designated a wilderness study area. Of these, two stated that the human works were not substantially noticeable, and two suggested that the area does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All public comments submitted regarding this area are included in the Permanent Documentation File at the Lakeview District Office. Copies are included in Appendix B of this report.

The State Director's final determination that the Lost Forest Instant Study Area does not possess wilderness characteristics was announced on August 29, 1979. At the same time it was also announced that portions of the area would be re-evaluated during the intensive inventory of contiguous units with lands which extend across the boundary of the natural area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Intensive Inventory

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands): OR-010-12

Areas/Island name: Lost Forest Research National Area

District: Lakeview State: Oregon

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? ___yes X no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? ___yes X no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ___yes X no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? X yes ___no

B. Resulting map.
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, recommended boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENTATION

Check one:
___Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
_X_Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
___A portion of the area(s) or island(s) should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: Richard H. Greely

Date: 3/9/79

B. State Director: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

NAME OF AREA Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA)

Explain by a concise narrative the following essential wilderness characteristics (for guidance see text in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook):

1. SIZE

Narrative: The Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) contains 8,960 acres of public land. The unit is traversed by one north to south road and by two roads running from east to west (see Map 1). The roads break the RNA into 5 units containing from approximately 600 to 2,500 acres. These roads total approximately 11 miles in length within the unit. Several additional ways exist in the RNA which are still occasionally used by recreationists. Closures have been made on some ways to control off road vehicle use.

Topography in the Lost Forest is flat to gently rolling with basalt outcrops rising 100-200 feet above the surrounding landscape.

The RNA is found is a sagebrush juniper area and supports an isolated remnant ponderosa pine forest (see supplemental values).

The roads in the area preclude any single portion of the RNA meeting the basic 5,000 acre requirement for wilderness designation.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

2. Does the island have sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES NO (circle one)

Portions of the area may be manageable as a unit of less than 5,000 acres.

SIGNATURE: [signature] DATE: 4/4/79

(Who did analysis and when)

Field observations were made in early November, 1978 with Dennis Hill, Outdoor Rec. Planner, Lakeview District Office, March 14, 1979 with Ed Depaoli, Area Manager and Art Gerity District Manager. March 20, 79, with Jack Desmond representing Friends of the Oregon Desert and Oregon Wilderness Coalition.

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

2. NATURALNESS

Narrative: Natural conditions in the Lost Forest are imapired by the presence of roads, ways and past off road vehicle use. Evidence of logging operations in the early 1950's still remains evident in the form of stumps and cut snags over approximately 2/3 of the unit. These operations took place in all portions of the forest occupied by ponderosa pine. Roads and skid trails were seeded with crested wheatgrass at the conclusion of operations.

Areas of the Lost Forest near Sand Dunes on the east and in the juniper stands on the west retain a more natural appearance aside from roads.

A large rock outcrop in the south central portion of the unit has been impacted by recreation use in the form of off road vehicle scarrings. The area has also been heavily used by picnickers and campers and shows considerable impacts of this occupancy in soil compaction, fire pits and refuse.

Summary: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: [illegible] DATE: [illegible]

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

Narrative: The existing roads in the area combined with the generally flat terrain severely limits opportunity for solitude in the area.

Assuming closure of roads in the area, the topography, size and low density of tree growth over most of the area would still limit opportunities for solitude. The area could provide solitude for small numbers of visitors, but large groups or heavy visitor use would limit the potential for avoidance.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: D Frontman DATE: 4/4/79

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Narrative: The Lost Forest offers an excellent opportunity for nature study.

Elements of recreation such as backpacking, rock climbing, and other persuits are somewhat limited in view of the size of the area. Impacts related in the naturalness evaluation could also tend to limit the use of the area for unconfined recreation. The area is suitable for these pursuits, but not outstanding in character. No free water is available in the area and this would be a limiting factor in summer months to non-motorized entry.

Recreation use of the area in winter and spring months is somewhat limited by weather effects on roads in the general area. Many of the access routes to Lost Forest are not passable during these months.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: D Armstrong DATE: 11/4/75

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: The Lost Forest was designated as a research natural area to recognize and protect this unique environment. The area represents a disjunct ponderosa pine forest growing in an arid region some 40 miles removed from the nearest ponderosa growing in normally anticipated conditions.

The low rainfall, 9.6 inches per year, is offset by sandy deep soils to allow ponderosa to survive and reporduce in this isolated area. Research has also found that Lost Forest ponderosa pine seed germinate more rapidly than seed obtained from three other sources. (Berry, 1963) Berry suggested that a rapidly triggered germinative ability was a drought-adaptive mechanism that had become fixed in the Lost Forest ponderosa pine ecotype.

The "emigrant road" through the Lost Forest is of historic significance. It was established in 1862 as a road from Jacksonville Oregon to Boise Idaho. The road was probably instrumental in settling the Fort Rock-Christmas Valley area.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: [signature] DATE: 9/9/73

UNIT NO. OR-010-12

5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative: Man's impacts on desert environments and in the Lost Forest are subject to extremely long recovery periods. The effects of logging in the early 1950's are still much in evidence today. Roads created in the area would likwise take extremely long periods to recover to natural conditions.

The conditions on the Lost Forest determined to be unnatural would require more than hand labor and natural process to revert to substantially unnoticeable levels.

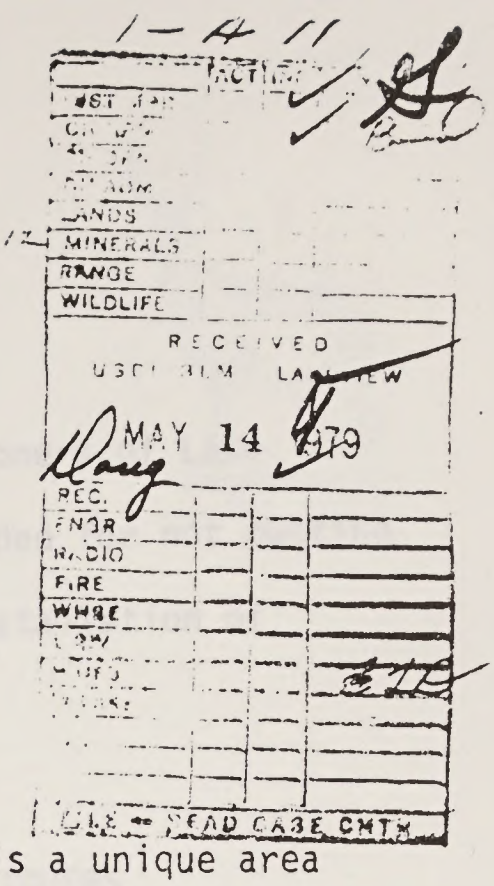
Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 4/2/82

APPENDIX B

Public Comment Letters and Forms



BEFORE THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WITHDRAWING THE LOST FOREST FROM WILDERNESS STUDY.) RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Lost Forest of Northern Lake County is a unique area that supports a stand of Ponderosa Pine, relict of an ancient forest; and

WHEREAS, the area of 8,960 acres has been considered for Wilderness status and the Bureau of Land Management has proposed that the area not be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness System; and

WHEREAS, the Lost Forest has been subjected to uses by man since he first entered Lake County in earliest pioneer times, its trees being taken and used by homesteaders and ranchers for buildings and firewood, its area being traversed by roads and trails, and at least two commercial logging operations having occurred in the Lost Forest; and

WHEREAS, the existence of these many marks of man effectively removes the area from consideration within Wilderness System objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has designated the area of the Lost Forest as a Research Natural Area, preserving it for research studies of soil, climate, tree see germination and other factors which make it possible for the arid region to support pine trees some forty miles from that species' normal zone; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Research Natural Area will very well protect the Lost Forest from further development, timber harvest or damage by man, while enabling scientific research to be carried out; now

THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Lake County Oregon, that the Bureau of Land Management be commended for not putting the Lost Forest in Wilderness status which could prevent installation of devices that might be needed by research projects.

DATED this seventh day of May, 1979

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

George Carlon, Chairman

Louis V. Lamb, Commissioner

Leslie Shaw, Commissioner

1-A-10
Unit # OR-010-1

Board of Commissioners
Lake County
STATE OF OREGON
LAKEVIEW, OREGON 97630

GEORGE CARLON LESLIE SHAW LOUIS LAMB

May 7, 1979

Art Gerity, District Manager
Lakeview District
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 151
Lakeview, OR 97630

Dear Art:

The Lake County Board of Commissioners agrees with the BLM decision to exclude the Lost Forest from further wilderness consideration.

The area is unique inasmuch as it supports a relict stand of Ponderosa Pine, and should be continued as a research natural area. But man has left there some very obvious signs of his own hand -- stumps from logging operations, roads, etc.,-- and the area is in no way suitable now as wilderness.

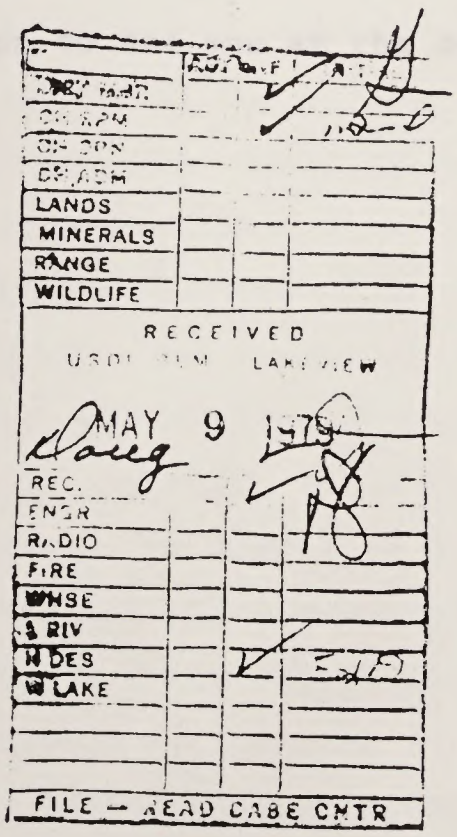
Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

George Carlon, Chairman

Louis V. Lamb, Commissioner

Leslie Shaw, Commissioner



Oregon Wilderness Coalition

Main Office, P.O. Box 3066, Eugene, Oregon 97403 (503) 686-5014
Metro Office, 2637 SW Water Street, Portland, Oregon 97201 (503) 222-1963
Eastern Oregon Field Office, Box 334, Joseph, Oregon 97846 (503) 426-4297

April 1, 1979

Doug Troutman
Wilderness Coordinator
Lakeview BLM District
Lakeview, OR

Dear Doug,

Forthwith is our proposal for Lost Forest. We are proposing a four-unit wilderness area which would include Lost Forest, the sand dunes, a part of Fossil Lake, areas in roadless area #1-12, 1-9, and 1-25. We feel that it is necessary to study the entire ecosystem and not to arbitrarily divide sections of the area as is being done in the present inventory.

A University of Oregon class will be going out to Lost Forest during the weekend of May 12-13 to visit. I myself will also be going out with the group. You are quite welcome to spend a day or the weekend with us.

Hope to see you at the desert conference.

Sincerely,
Jack Desmond
Jack Desmond

Oregon Wildfire Coalition

Lost Forest

Lost Forest is probably one of the most disturbed areas that has ever been established as a research natural area. Logging, grazing, and roads have all impacted the area yet its very uniqueness was so outstanding it was set aside as a research natural area.-

The present policy of the BLM to discourage visitors to the RNA by not posting signs or upgrading the roads is commendable. Lost Forest and the surrounding area is a fragile ecosystem which can not or should not sustain large numbers of visitors. Regardless of the outcome of its study for wilderness designation, all management activities should be directed towards minimizing impact so that the site may be used as a baseline area where effects of human activities can be measured and as a gene pool preserve.

Intrusions

Some comment has been made regarding the 1954 logging which is evident in the central portion of the forest. Obviously, each individual would react differently to the sight of these stumps, but we suspect most people hardly even notice them. Logging is quite common in Oregon and the sight of stumps has come to have been perceived, unfortunately, by many people as almost a natural feature of the forest. It should also be noted the draft BLM interim management policies would allow thinning to occur in wilderness study areas. Thus, we feel the sight of a few stumps and minor traces of skid trails does not affect the naturalness of the area.

Likewise, the impact of the roads and ways which crisscross the RNA is minimal. Due to the flatness of the terrain and the marginal condition of the roads and ways, it is difficult to see either a road or way more than 50 feet away. The impact is just not that extensive.

Offroad vehicle use is, unfortunately, noticeable throughout some parts. ORV use is not a legitimate use of the RNA and can not be considered an adequate reason for denying an area for wilderness study.

For a better understanding of man's impact upon the area, a climb up to the small rock outcropping in section 33 will show how minimal the impacts have been. From the rock outcropping, only small sections of the roads can

Introduction

be seen while no evidence of the logging is visible. Across the sweep of Lost Forest, Fossil Lake andthe sand dunes, natural areas dominate the vista.

Roads or ways

The Old Emigrant Trail road which runs east-west through Lost Forest and the north-south road through the middle of the road are recognized by OWC as legitimate roads, though these themselves would hardly qualify as all-weather roads. In the winter, travel on these roads is restricted to four-wheel vehicles. All other passages for vehicles in Lost Forest and the surrounding areas are ways, according to the definition of a road. This also includes a way which runs along the northwest boundary of the RNA(sections 20-21), which, if we understand correctly, the BLM has claimed is a road. We feel this way/road does not adequately meet the definition of a road nor does it have any outstanding purpose which could not be served by the other two roads.

Regardless of how one defines this way/road, we feel it should be closed. A closure would protect the northern part of the area from undue defredation and would allow a person to experience a greater sense of solitude in the area.

Wilderness misconceptions

The word wilderness suffers from many common misconceptions and pre-judgements. Urbanites perceive a campground in the heart of a forest as wilderness. Others see wilderness as a red-flag saying off-limits to every-one and everything. Even a public figure so intelligent as Governor Dixie Lee Ray of Washington claimed that wilderness wasn't good for anything because you couldn't hunt, fish, light fires, or even camp in wildernesses. Her mis-conceptions are shared by many who think in terms of wilderness being only lofty rocky peaks, alpine lakes, and rushing streams which can be used only by the occasional "elitist backpacker."

Rather, wilderness is multiple-use and can be used as a management tool to attain many objectives. Grazing, fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife habitat are several of the multiple-uses available in wilderness. About the only uses not allowed are motorized use and logging.

Wilderness does not close off an area. Rather, it enhances other resources and the adjacent areas. Higher water quality is retained in wilderness areas,

unlike logged areas which are a continual source of sedimentation. to streams and rivers which impact fisheries.

Big game animals are able to seek refuge in wilderness areas from road hunters. And, wilderness are a source of gene pools and can provide a baseline from which we can judge environmental degredation.

Proposals

Though we realize the BLM is only studying Lost Forest RNA during this phase of the inventory, nature is not bounded by such artificial concepts, nor do we feel bounded by those same constraints. In order to protect the entire ecosystem, we are proposing lands adjacent the RNA which will be studied for wilderness by the BLM later this summer. At this point, we must note that the RNA was originally proposed to be 20,000 acres, but was scaled back.

Our four-unit proposal icludes part of the Fossil Lake area, the shifting sand dunes, Lost Forest, and areas to the east and north of the RNA. (see map). We also feel the PP&L wilderness inventory was inadequate. One line sentences describing the scenic values of thousands of acres or stating that the sand dunes may have educational values falls far short of what can be considered an adequate review. Thus, we are including areas of the PP&L inventory in our proposal.

Rationale

We are proposing a four unit proposal because it would provide the greatest protection for a unique ecosy stem. We feel this ecosystem qualifies for wilderness because the units contain over 5000 acres, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist, and the impact of man is not substantial. The area contains ecological, geological, scenic, historical, and other features of scientific concern, as specified under the Wilderness Act.

Lost Forest contains unusual ecological features because the area supports ponderosa pine trees though it receives only one half of the necessary rainfall. The forest is a relic of a more extensive ponderosa pine forest which existed 4000 years ago.

Lost Forest contains many historical values such as the Old Emigrant Trail. The area has moderate scenic values which increase as one begins to appreciate the finer qualities of the desert. The scenic values of Lost Forest at night are especially impelling. The outlines of dead juniper

silhouetted against the night sky provide much beauty to one with a fertile imagination.

Opportunities for primitive recreation abound in the forest. However, we do not believe the are should be open to extensive primitive recreation, in fact, definite limits will have to be set up in the near future.

Though most people generally think of the desert as containing immense expanses of sand dunes, sand dunes are usually a small feature of the desert. The sand dunes to the south and west of Lost Forest are among the largest sand dunes located in the Oregon high desert.

One of the primary reasons that the sand dunes should be allocated to wilderness is to prevent offorad vehicle use of the area. The sounds of unmuffled vehicles intrude into significant portions of the southern section of the forest. Further, the sand dunes are a scenic feature among themselves which should not have to bear the marks of wheeled tracks.

Areas to the north and east of Lost Forest are included in the proposal because the areas are integral with the RNA. Inclusion of these areas would also increase the solitude and primitive recreation aspects of the RNA.

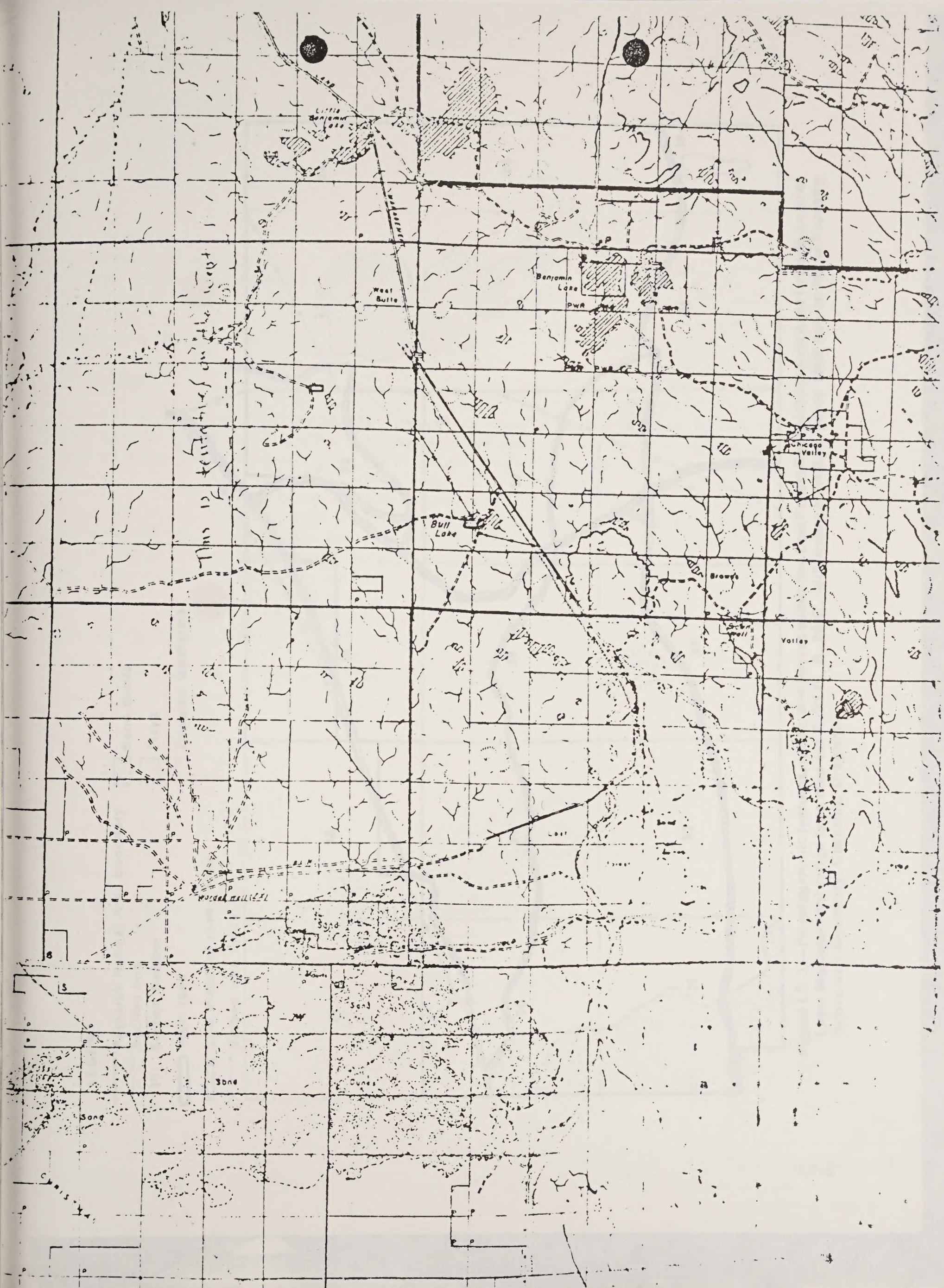
Effects of wilderness designation

Wilderness designation of Lost Forest and the surrounding ecosystem will not "lock-up" the land. The north-south, east-west roads will still be open which will allow people to drive their vehicles into parts of the area. Lost Forest will still be available to them.

Offroad vehicle use of the sand dunes would be prohibited. In these days of increasing oil shortages, offroad vehicle use is a superfluous activity which will probably have to end within 10 years anyways.

Nor would wilderness designation hinder fire suppression activities or emergency activities. Indeed, the entire area is in need of fire to burn off the accumulating underbrush and toxic pine needles. Fire would clear the area and, from past experience, increase the fertility of the soil.

Figure 6. Alignment configuration


Little Benjamin Lake
West Butte
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Chicago Valley
Bull Lake
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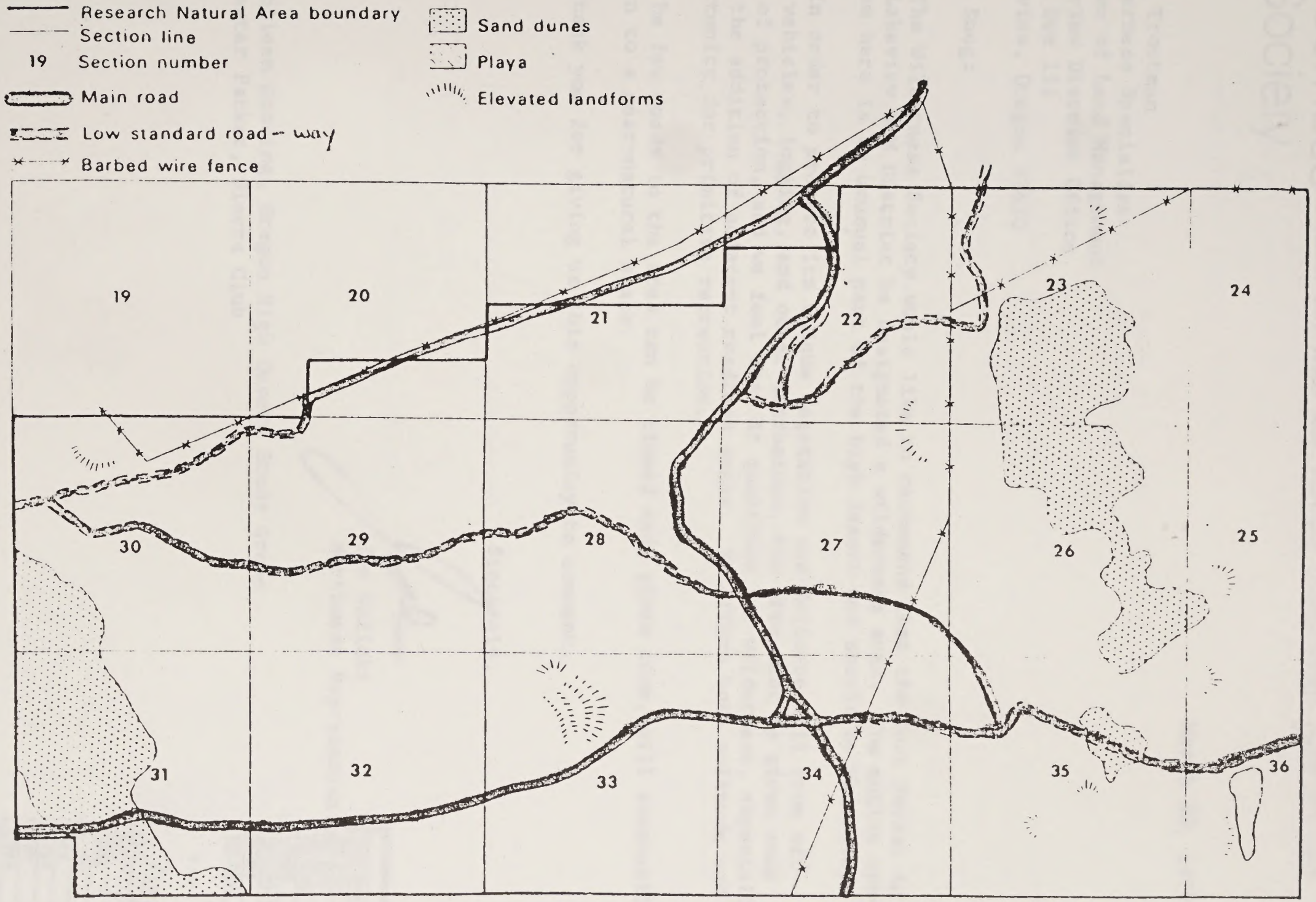


Figure LF-3.—Physiographic features, roads, and fences within the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (from Bureau of Land Management range type map for T. 25 S., R. 20 E., Willamette meridian, dated 1960 and on file at Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Corvallis, Oregon).

The Wilderness Society

2637 S.W. Water Ave., Portland, Oregon 97201 (503) 223-1067

March 30, 1979

Doug Troutman
Wilderness Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District Office
P.O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Dear Doug:

The Wilderness Society would like to recommend that the Lost Forest in the Lakeview BLM District be designated a wilderness area. The entire ecosystem here is an unusual part of the high desert and should be preserved.

In order to protect its unique vegetation and delicate soil from off-road vehicles, logging, and other intrusions, the area must be given some kind of protection, and we feel that it qualifies for wilderness, especially with the addition of adjacent roadless areas. It offers both solitude and opportunity for primitive recreation.

The few roads in the area can be closed and, given time, will eventually return to a near-natural state.

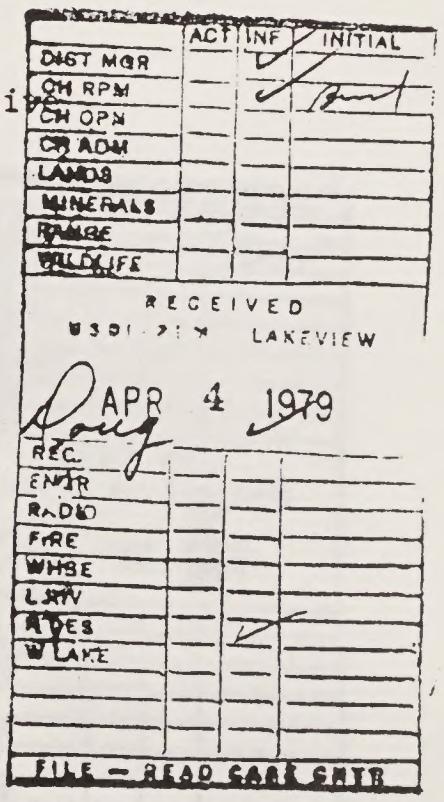
Thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joe Walicki
Northwest Representative

JW/ak

cc: Colleen Gooding, Oregon High Desert Study Group
Vawter Parker, Sierra Club



"... THE ORGANIZATION OF SPIRITED PEOPLE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE WILDERNESS."

—Robert Marshall

evaluated
5/11/79 BT.

1-12

1-A73

May 9, 1979

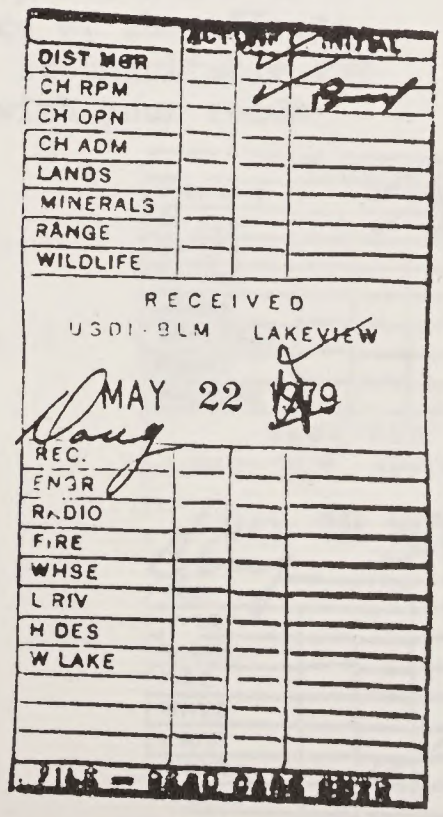
Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District Office
P. O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Subj: Lost Forest Research Natural Area - Instant Study Area
Wilderness Review

I have looked over the April 26 proposal to not recommend Wilderness status for the Lost Forest Research Natural Area. I understnad that this decision is limited to the current RNA only as it is now defined, and that the land involved will be re-considered later as a part of the total Lost Forest area wilderness review. If I understand correctly, the interim non-degradation rules will apply to this area through the regular wilderness assessment process, even though the area is not selected for instant wilderness.

I believe that this area, in general, should be given careful consideration for Wilderness status. The purpose of this letter is to clarify my undersanding of its interim status; and if my understanding is not correct, then to urge Instant Wilerness designation or equal action to prevent further degradation to this unique area, pending consideration of long-term protection.

Glenn B. Eades
16109 NE 57th
Redmond, Washington 98052



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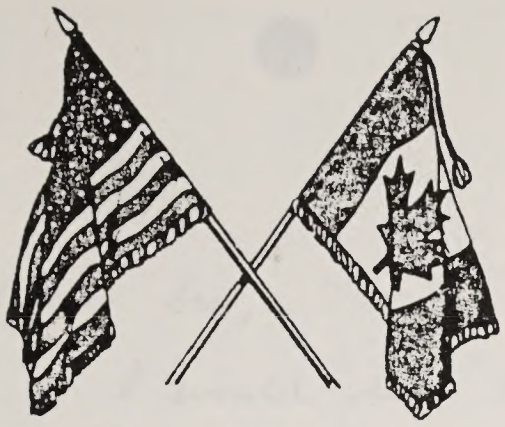

One Forest Under Two Flags

WESTERN FORESTRY and CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

(Since 1909)

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Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
Edna Keyes

Past President
John Callaghan

May 24, 1979

Director
Lakeview District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the recent request for comment on your decision not to recommend Wilderness classification for the Lost Forest Research Natural Area.

The Western Forestry and Conservation Association has long supported the concept of research natural areas and the ability to control entry into them. We are also on record as supporting the need for wilderness and the inclusion of some lands in the Wilderness system. We do not however feel that the two uses - research natural areas and wilderness - are necessarily compatible. While "wilderness" does have many restrictions relative to its use, it does imply ready access to any and all meeting the restrictions. Additional "Wilderness" designation does tend to invite visitiors into an area with the possible consequences of human disturbance of the ecosystem to be preserved. For these reasons we generally do not support the designation of research natural areas as wilderness.

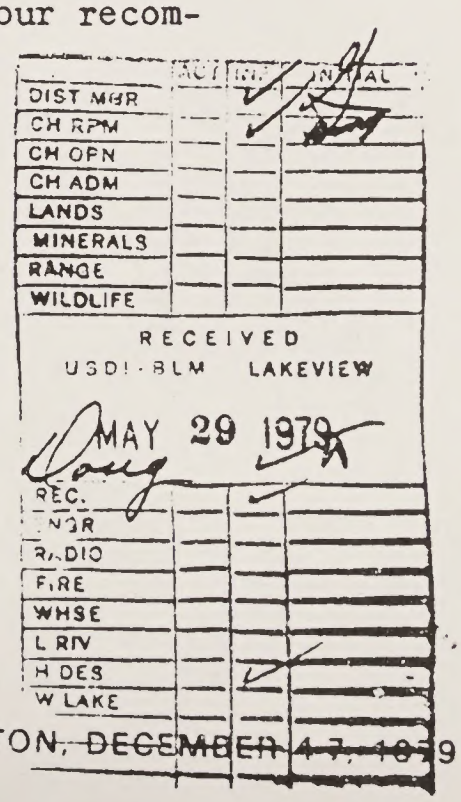
The Lost Forest does not truly serve the concept of a research natural area since it does bear considerable evidence of the effects of man upon the area. These same factors also make it unsuitable for "Wilderness" classification. Therefore, we concur with your recommendation not to seek "Wilderness"status.

Very truly yours,

Steele Barnett

Steele Barnett
Forest Counsel

SB:k



70th Western Forestry Conference, SHERATON-SPOKANE, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4-7, 1979

WESTERN FORESTRY

and CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Keith Eggner
Gen. Delivery
Prairie City, OR. 97869

Dear Sir,

I would like to be put on your mailing list for the Last Great Wilderness Proposal. Upon reading the article in "Wild Oregon" I believe the area to be of great significance ecologically to the state of Oregon and you should do everything within your power to preserve it in the wilderness system.

Even if man has been in the area it should still be preserved in some manner to guard it from total destruction.

It obviously is very unique and deserves preservation in our Wilderness system.

Sincerely,

Keith Eggner

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Doug

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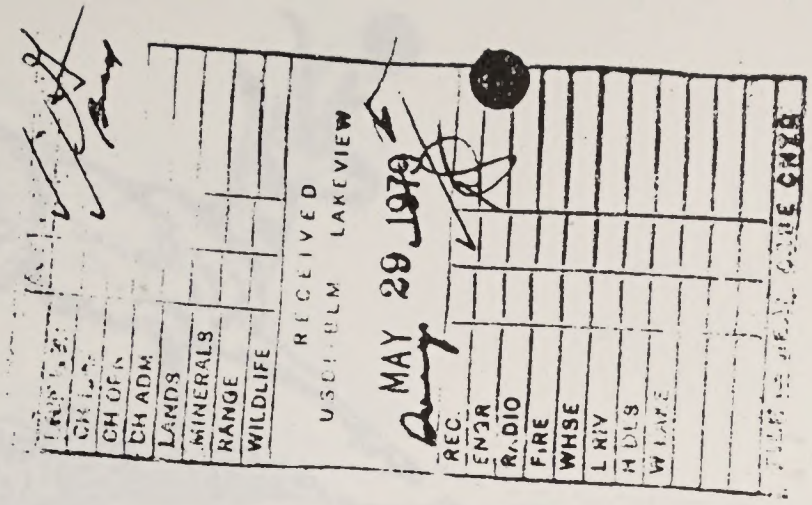

Survival Center
Suite 1, EMU II
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403
503/686-4356

May 22, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
District Manager, Lakeview District
Lakeview, Oregon

Dear Sir,

We, the Oregon Wildlands class from the University of Oregon, would like to express our gratitude to you for an incredible field trip to Lost Forest last weekend with Dennis Hill. The desert itself is awe-inspiring. However, Dennis made the experience much richer through his geological explanations, leading us to Fossil Lake, the Dunes, and the Lost Forest, and his great enthusiasm for the land.

We explored the sands of Fossil Lake, bending on our knees to touch the bones of animals and fish who lived 30,000 years ago. We sat by the water's edge and gazed at modern birds, of equal wonder, the American Avocets. From the dunes above Fossil Lake, Dennis pointed out the interdependence of the dune areas with the Lost Forest. Without the dunes the forest could not exist. This was a perfect example of what we are striving to learn in class- that an environment cannot be separated from its surroundings. All are part of a community of interdependent parts.

We learned also of the active geologic history of the area as we viewed the area from a high outcrop in Lost Forest and later as we explored the Crack in the Ground.

An appreciation for the unique beauty of the area developed at the same time as a realization of the human destruction that can easily occur by those who go there not to appreciate, but only to recreate. Specifically, while we were there we ran into several motorcyle parties. Their tracks and the roar of the motors heralded their arrival from afar. If the BLM could be assured that these riders would keep to areas where the land can somewhat sustain their impact, perhaps some use should be allowed. However, their actions towards us, such as deliberately gunning their motors as they approached us and then throwing up the dust in our faces and racing around our van and the BLM pick-up, take away any justification for their presence. It is important to realise that we are all visitors in the desert. Therefore, we must respect the land and all those who traverse it. We hope that unique areas such as the ones we visited will be included in the wilderness review and protected for all people to enjoy now, and in the future.

Educational experiences like this one can never be duplicated in the classroom. More people need to get out to the desert, watch the sunset, hear the coyotes howl at night, and meet someone such as Dennis . We feel very fortunate .

Sincerely,
Debbie Richie (Instructor) and the Oregon Wildlands class

Debbie Richie

216

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Oregon High Desert Study Group

COLLEEN GOODING
COORDINATOR

POST OFFICE BOX 25 • ST. PAUL, OREGON 97137

March 27, 1979

	ACT	INF	INT
DIST MGR		✓	✓
CH RPM			
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CH ADM			
LANDS			
MINERALS			
RANGE			
WILDLIFE			

RECEIVED
USDI-BLM LAKEVIEW
MAR 29 1979

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FILE — READ CASE CNTR

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Doug Troutman, Wilderness Specialist
Lakeview District Office
Post Office Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

RE: Lost Forest

Dear Doug,

The Oregon High Desert Study Group feels that the Lost Forest, a biologically unique and valuable section of Oregon's High Desert, should be preserved in a state of minimum disturbance. Unfortunately, several roads already traverse the area, and ill-advised timber cutting has taken place. Nevertheless, most of the Lost Forest is still in a fairly pristine condition. On both sides of the major road which divides the region occur portions of the forest which when combined with adjacent roadless land would be well-qualified for wilderness designation. Opportunities for solitude and for outdoor recreation would be plentiful. Traces of the disturbance which has taken place in the past would gradually disappear.

It is particularly important that vehicular use be limited in the Lost Forest. Soils are loose and highly erodible. Off-road vehicles are thus capable of creating a great deal of damage to the unusual plant communities.

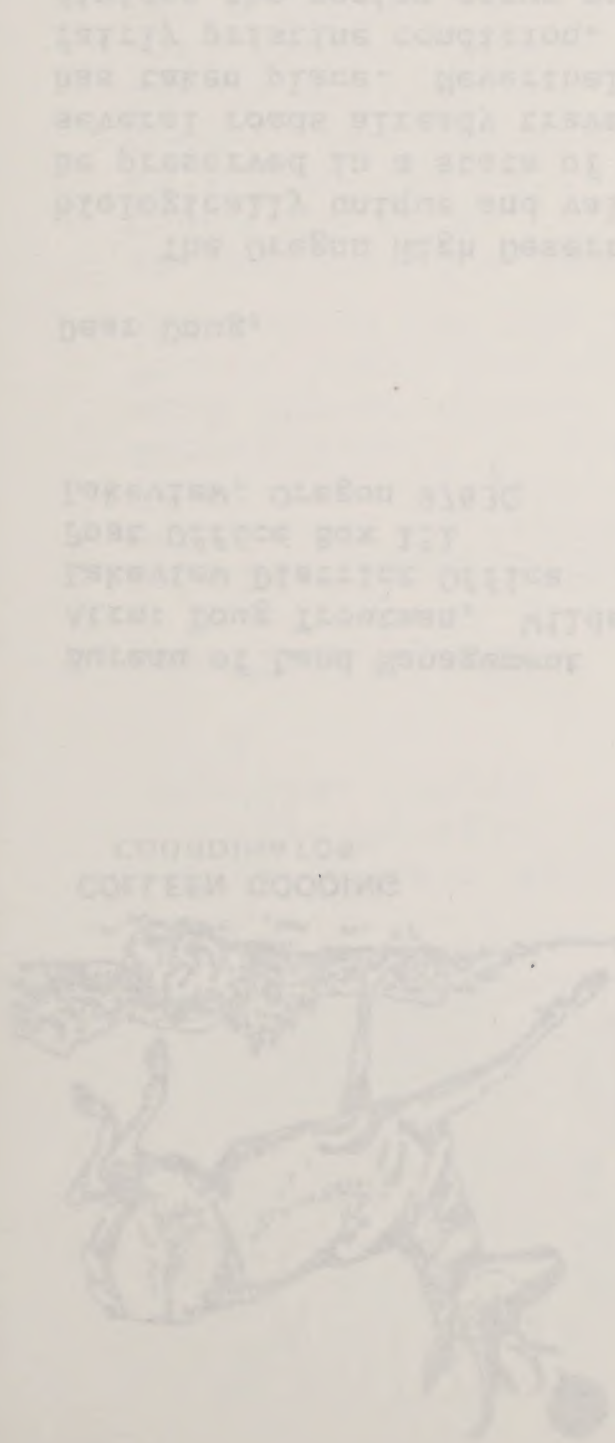
Wilderness status would be the best means of ensuring limitations.

Sincerely yours,

Colleen Gooding

Colleen Gooding

cc: The Wilderness Society/Joe Walicki
The Sierra Club/Vawter Parker



1-A-19

Oregon High Desert Study Group

COLLEEN GOODING
COORDINATOR

POST OFFICE BOX 25 • ST. PAUL, OREGON 97137

May 30, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
Mr. Art Gerity, District Manager
Lakeview District Office
P.O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Dear Mr. Gerity,

The Oregon High Desert Study Group recommends that the Lost Forest Instant Study Area, Unit #1-12, be dropped from the wilderness review. Because of the size and the roads which bisect the Lost Forest, the area cannot be managed as a Wilderness Area.

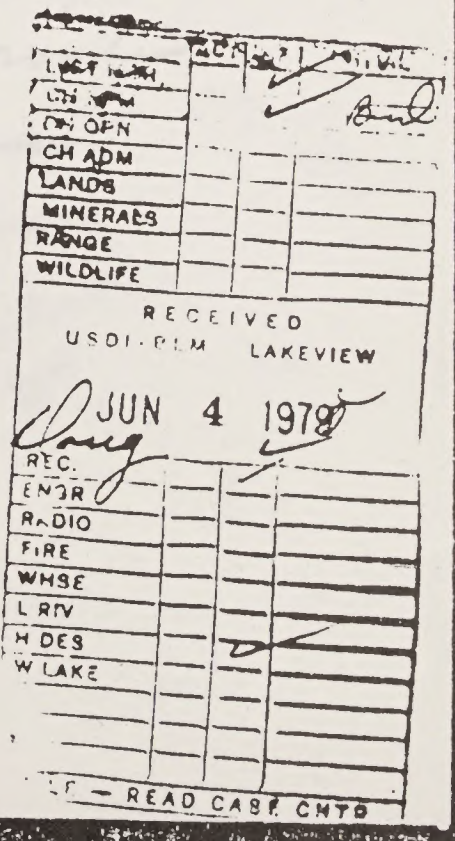
We believe the roadless units to the north and contiguous to the Research Natural Area, as well as the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes, Unit 1-24, meet the criteria of FLPMA, section 603, and should be included into the intensive inventory stage of the review process.

Sincerely yours,

Colleen Gooding

Colleen Gooding

cc: Murl Storms, State Director
Senator Mark Hatfield
Senator Bob Packwood
Representative Al Ullman
Joe Walicki, The Wilderness Society
Vawter Parker, Sierra Club
John Platt, Oregon Environmental Council



218

5-B-2 ~~OR-080~~
1-A-46 ~~4/11~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Taylor
ADDRESS : 410 SE. 14 Albany, Oro. 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG.) DATE : 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with Wilderness proposed initial inventory printed April 1979 that they donot have wilderness characteristics, I also think the five areas Lost Forest, Western Jumper, Little Sink, Brewer Spruce + Douglas fir that they donot show wilderness characteristics, I have visited most of the above locations & traveled on roads in these areas, roads that people had homes on, and I think these roads will be there for a long time to come. If areas are considered wilderness areas how will people be able to get to these areas to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness?

8-B-6 ~~OR-080~~
1-A-45 ~~4-79~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Kathy Stone
ADDRESS : 3855 Dunlap NE.
Albany, OR 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG) DATE: 5-16-79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the opinions expressed in the BLM Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory Booklet published April 1979 concerning study areas which lack wilderness characteristics. The areas designated in the booklet are too public and would never give the seeker what he's looking for in terms of solitude & land untouched by man. I have been in most of the areas 8-2, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 + 9-1. They have never appealed to me as being wilderness oriented.

I also agree with the recommendation to drop the 5 instant study areas from BLM's wilderness program. I have been to 4 of the 5 study areas. & none of them have impressed me as having wilderness potential.

8-B-5 ~~OR-08~~
1-A-44 ~~44~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Bill Bentley
ADDRESS : 625 E. 38th
Albany, Or 97321

INTERVIEWER : N.A - 5/16/79 mtg. DATE : 5/19/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree that units 8.2 through 9.1 m
The wilderness proposed initial inventory
Does not have wilderness characteristics.
These units are in Salem + Eugene

I also agree that the five units in
the instant study area should be considered
to be non wilderness areas and to be
dropped from the instant study

8-B-4 ~~OR-08~~
1-A-43 ~~4/79~~

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM —
GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Wm J Doyle
ADDRESS : 1185 Airport Rd
Lebanon ORE. 97355

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG). DATE: 5/16/79

CONCERNS / INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with the BLM's Proposed Initial Inventory, conserning Unit 8-2 thru Unit 8-8
Also Unit 9-1
The Booklet is dated April 1979

✓ I Agree that the five Instant Study Areas should be dropped from further study as a wilderness Area.

8-B-3 ~~OR-080~~ ~~4/77~~

1-4-42

— BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM — GENERAL COMMENT/INTERVIEW SHEET

NAME : Merrill Willard

ADDRESS : 1201 E. 28th Albany, Or. 97321

INTERVIEWER: (N.A. - 5/16/79 MTG.) DATE: 5/16/79

CONCERNS/INFORMATION EXPRESSED —

I agree with The BLM Proposed Initial Inventory of Roadless Areas which Clearly lack Wilderness Characteristics. I have been in most of These Identified areas and Have found The past activities on These areas Clearly Evident.

✓ I agree with Proposed Instant Study area Recommendations.

8-A-11

1-A-41

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Date 5/16/79

Comments by Merrill Willard
(Name)

Address 1201 E. 28th Albany Or

Meeting attended Salem

? Inventory Unit Number R 20 E
(Area on which you want to comment)

District Lakeview

PLEASE CHECK:
Area should _____ should not ✓
be more intensively inventoried.

You may find it convenient to submit your comments on a specific roadless area or island by addressing one or both of these criteria.

1. Natural Conditions. Are the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable? What man-made features are you aware of in the inventory unit?

There are Roads across These Areas Which are very Evident To These Roads are well Traveled and will NOT be removed -

2. Does the area or island provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Why or why not?

The area is accessable by Roads and The area does NOT contain Isolation Characteristic. Campgrounds at The Edge

over

8-A-6

1-A-40

BLM INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Date 5/16/79

Inventory Unit Number 1-12
(Area on which you want to comment)

Comments by F.A. McCabe
(Name)

Address 3340 Crestview Dr S
Salem 97302

District Lakeview

Meeting attended Salem - afternoon

PLEASE CHECK:
Area should X should not ___
be more intensively inventoried.

You may find it convenient to submit your comments on a specific roadless area or island by addressing one or both of these criteria.

1. Natural Conditions. Are the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable? What man-made features are you aware of in the inventory unit? Altho I have not been in this area I have read about it & know people who have been there. It has to be a remarkable area and so long as it remains as a research area, presumably is "safe" from the saw. I would urge that the "roads" be permitted to return to a "natural" state, that ORVs be eliminated insofar as possible and "picnickers" also. Is the area signed so groups can know (even if this won't keep out all visitors)?

2. Does the area or island provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Why or why not?

1-12

0-A-48

COOS-CURRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

P. O. BOX 647
NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459

SANDRA DIEDRICH
DIRECTOR
PHONE 756-2563

1-A-54

ROBERT PIERCE, Chairman
BILL TANKERSLEY, Vice-Chairman
C. W. HECKARD, Treasurer

DIST MGR			
CH RPM			
CH OPN			
CH ADM			
LANDS			
MINERALS			
RANGE			
WILDLIFE			

RECEIVED
LAKEVIEW
JUN 28 1979
Doug

REC.			
ENGR			
RADIO			
FIRE			
WHSE			
L RIV			
H DES			
W LAKE			

FILE — READ CASE CNTR

June 22, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Or. 97208

Attention: State Director

Re: Proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the regional clearinghouse procedures as specified in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, as revised, the Coos-Curry Council of Governments on June 14, 1979, reviewed the BLM proposal to exclude BLM Research Natural Areas from Wilderness Designation.

In reviewing the proposed project, the Council noted BLM's rationale was that four of the five research natural areas are much smaller than 5,000 acres and the fifth area is covered with roads while Wilderness areas are supposed to be 5,000 acres in size and virtually free of roads. The Council further noted the Cherry Creek Resource Natural Area is recommended for non-inclusion in the wilderness designation and that the Western Juniper and Lost Forest Resource Natural Areas will be considered in conjunction with their surroundings to determine if the overall area has wilderness characteristics. The Council unanimously approved a favorable review of this proposal.

Should you have any questions regarding this action by the Council, please do not hesitate to contact us.

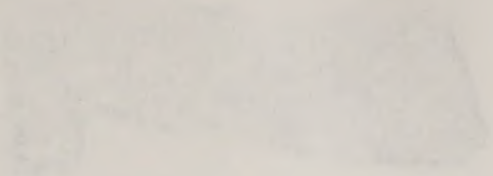
Sincerely,

Sandra Diedrich
Director

SD/tam
cc: State Clearinghouse

MEMBER AGENCIES

COOS COUNTY
CURRY COUNTY
BANDON
PORT ORFORD
POWERS
PORT OF BANDON
COOS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BANDON SCHOOL DISTRICT



1-A-59

1-12

0-A-32

Executive Department

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DIVISION

ROOM 306, STATE LIBRARY BLDG., SALEM, OREGON 97310

May 29, 1979

Stanley D. Lester, Chief
Branch of Lands, Minerals & Recreation
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, ORegon 97034

SUBJECT: Lost Forest, Western Juniper, Little Sink, Brewer Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study Areas"
PNRS 7904 5 1330

This is to notify you that the State Clearinghouse has requested an extension of review time as allowed by OMB Circular A-95.

We will attempt to expedite matters in order to cause you the least possible inconvenience.

Kay Wilcox

KAY WILCOX, A-95 COORDINATOR

KW:mob

1-12

1-A-52

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR

Forestry Department

OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER

2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

O-A-26

May 21, 1979

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research hatural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

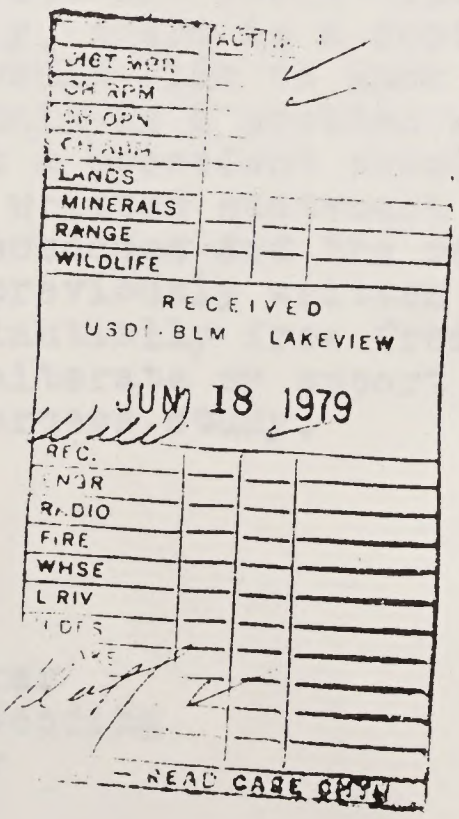
We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

Ed Schroeder

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B



1-4-55

1-12

O-A-38

SIERRA CLUB ...Oregon Chapter

2637 S.W. Water St. Portland, Oregon 97201

	ACT	INF	INITIAL
DIST MGR		✓	
CH RPM		✓	YB
CH OPN			
CH ADM			
LANDS			
MINERALS			
RANGE			
WILDLIFE			

RECEIVED
USDI BLM LAKEVIEW
JUN 22 1979

DEC			
MGR			
RADIO			
FIRE			
WHSE			
L RIV			
H DES			
W LAKE			

FILE — READ CASE CHYR

1253 Ferry St. #6
Eugene, OR 97401

Don Geary
BLM State office
P O Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Don,

The following are my comments regarding the decision that the roadless areas of Lost Forest RNA lack wilderness qualities.

The BLM previously studied parts of Lost Forest RNA during the PP&L inventory and recommended that the two roadless areas in the southern portion of the RNA have wilderness qualities. Yet, in the accelerated inventory of primitive areas, the BLM restudied the area and suggested that Lost Forest RNA lacks wilderness qualities.

Obviously, there is a contradiction between these two studies. I would like to know which study has precedence? I feel that this is a problem which may arise in the future and that a precedent should be set in this case. I would like a written statement from the BLM regarding which study has precedence and the reasons why it does.

I have previously written a letter why I feel the area is substantially free from the works of man and I will once again reiterate my spport that Lost Forest RNA deserves further wilderness study.

Sincerely,

Jack Desmond

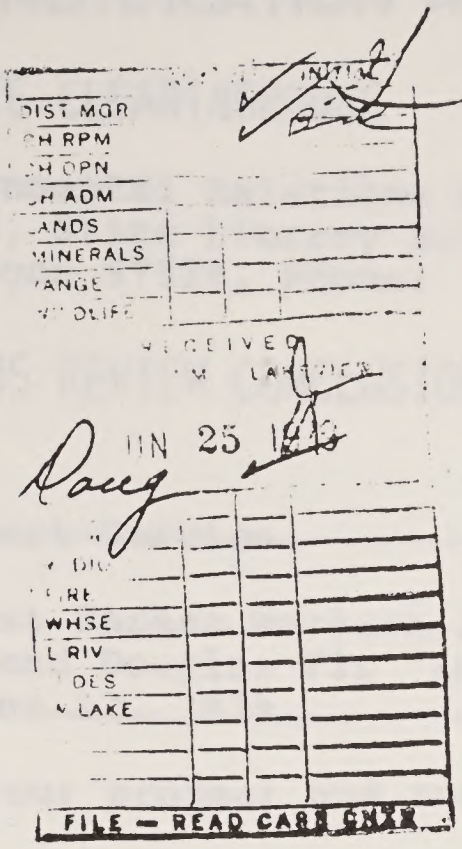
Jack Desmond

cc: Buck Parker
Colleen Gooding
Andy Kerr

unit 12 prel

Lakeview

8500 (933)



JUN 20 1979

Jack Desmond
1253 Ferry Street, No. 6
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Dear Mr. Desmond:

You asked about the relationship between the wilderness inventory conducted along the proposed right-of-way for a Pacific Power and Light Company transmission line and the wilderness inventory of the Lost Forest Instant Study Area.

The inventory along the power line right-of-way identified lands which do not have wilderness characteristics and lands on which a decision on wilderness characteristics was deferred. Lands in the southern part of the Instant Study Area (ISA) fell in the latter category. Our proposed decision on the current inventory of the ISA is that the area, in and of itself, does not have wilderness characteristics. Those portions of the ISA which form parts of roadless areas which have not been determined to lack wilderness characteristics will be intensively inventoried later this year. These roadless areas are identified as Inventory Units 1-9, 1-12, and 1-24 on the map we sent you April 6. We will announce a proposed decision on whether these units should be wilderness study areas early next year.

Please let us know if you have further questions.

Sincerely yours,

HUGH R. SHERA

Chief, Division of Resources

cc: Lakeview DM

933:DGeary:db 06-18-79

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

O-A-37 ~~O-A-60~~ I-A-60

Intergovernmental Relations Division
Room 306, State Library Building
Salem, Oregon 97310, Phone: 378-3732

STATE A-95 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: ~~U.S. Forest Service~~

PROJECT TITLE: ~~Lost Forest Western Juniper, Little~~ Sink, Brewer Spruce and Douglas Fir "Instant Wilderness Study"

DATE: June 12, 1979

The state has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

[X] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified ~~and your proposal is endorsed as presented.~~

[X] Relevant comments of state agencies are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.

[ ] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of the state agency(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

[ ] Significant conflicts with the plans, policies or programs of state government have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and the final comments and recommendations of the state are attached.

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY

The following is the officially assigned State Identifier Number:

7904 5 1330

This number should be used on all correspondence and particularly on SF 424 as required by OMB A-98.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency as required by OMB A-95. Comments of the appropriate local reviewing agencies will be submitted to you separately and must also be included.

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

OREGON PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW SYSTEM

1-A-60

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

0-A-37

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1330 Return Date: MAY 25 1979

This Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information and to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the above date in order to receive consideration.

COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees that the five "Instant Wilderness Study Areas" administered by BLM in Oregon do not have Wilderness characteristics. However, these research natural areas contain unique flora and fauna characteristics and should be preserved.

1-A-60

Forestry Department
OFFICE OF STATE FORESTER
2600 STATE STREET, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-2560

O-A-37

May 21, 1979

Murl W. Storms
Oregon State Director, BLM
729 N.E. Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Murl:

The Department of Forestry has reviewed the BLM proposal that the five research natural areas in Oregon do not have wilderness characteristics and should receive no further wilderness study. Our comments are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on this proposal, and we hope our comments are helpful to you in completing this phase of the study.

Sincerely,

J. E. Schroeder
State Forester

JES:jr
1506B

1-A-20

0-A-37

BLM Research Natural Areas Proposed

To Be Excluded From Wilderness Designation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 describe the characteristics to be used in identifying wilderness study areas. The general characteristics are size, naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

The five research natural areas on BLM land in Oregon have been evaluated and described in detail in terms of the key wilderness characteristics. On the basis of these key characteristics the research natural areas do not offer the prerequisite qualities for wilderness. The Department of Forestry concurs with the BLM proposal that these research natural areas should not receive further consideration for wilderness designation.

As noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, there are established management methods for conserving the unique features of these natural areas. In some cases, use and management of natural areas is more restrictive than that which would be applied under wilderness designation. These generally small areas should be managed to protect their unique natural features. However, acreage in excess of that needed to maintain an area's unique natural feature should be returned to the normal land use planning process. It appears that the Lost Forest Natural Area may be in this category.

DD:jr
1506B

Yours, By

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

0-A-37 1-A-10

Intergovernmental Relations Division
STATE LIBRARY BLDG, Salem, Oregon 97310
ROOM 306 Phone: 378-3732

Project # 7904 5 1336 Return Date: ~~MAY 25 1979~~

Agency Addressed: The attached has been submitted for your information to solicit comments. Your comments, if any, must be received by the ...e date in order to receive consideration.

We concur that the 5 areas noted are not suitable for wilderness designation.

Agency Parks By

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1991—591-222/41,609 REGION NO. 10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Oregon State Office
1300 N.E. 44th Avenue
P.O. Box 2965
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